

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

Vol. XLIX.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 1st APRIL, 1899.

No. 13.

CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.	257
Leading Articles:—	
The British and Russian Spheres of Influence	258
Partition or Reform	258
Railways in Yunnan	258
Dr. Dobereck and the Manila Storm Warnings	259
Cremation	260
Supreme Court	260
The War in the Philippines	261
Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce	261
The Scotch Concert	263
Hongkong Volunteer Corps	263
Mr. Granville Sharp on Cremation	263
Special Meeting of the Sanitary Board	264
Reviews	264
The Charges against an Artilleryman	265
Football	265
Hongkong Rifle Association	266
Royal Hongkong Yacht Club	266
Mount Macdonald Mines	267
Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Limited	267
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Company	268
Correspondence	270
French Activity in Yunnan	270
Progress at Kiaochau	270
Collision at Woosung	270
Another Mahomedan Rebellion	270
Hongkong and Port News	270
Commercial	271
Shipping	272

BIRTH.

At Nagasaki, on the 29th March, the wife of E. A. MEASOR, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

At Yokohama, on the 3th March, 1899, by the Rev. E. Champneys Irwine, M.A., in the presence of J. F. Gowie, Esq., Consul-General of the United States, JOHN RISLEY PUTNAM, of the U. S. Customs Service, China, second son of Mr. Justice PUTNAM of the Supreme Court, Appellate Division, N.Y., U.S.A., to CHARLOTTE BROWNELL IVEY, youngest daughter of Major Chauncey IVEY, of Chambersburg, Penn., U.S.A.

On the 18th March, 1899, at Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., ALFRED WRIGHT, of the Imperial Chinese Railways, Tientsin, to FLORA ANNE MACDONALD, of Adelaide, South Australia.

DEATHS.

At Tientsin, 12th March, 1899, R. B. MONTY, aged 58 years.

At Foochow, on the 16th March, JAMES FEATHERSTONHAUGH WILKINSON, aged 39 years.

On the 19th March, at the residence of Mr. P. F. da Silva, Yokohama, F. A. CORE, an old British resident in Japan.

On the 20th March, H. C. SPARROW, on board the German mail steamer *Sachsen*. (By cable.)

On the 22nd March, at Bombay, MEHRBAI, the eldest daughter of SORABJEE PESTONJEE DADY BURJOR, aged 25 years. Deeply regretted. (By telegram.)

On the 24th March, at Bombay, RANOORAI, the remaining surviving daughter of SORABJEE PESTONJEE DADY BURJOR, aged 11 years. Deeply regretted. (By telegram.)

On the 27th March, at Bombay, SORABJEE PESTONJEE DADY BURJOR. Deeply regretted. (By telegram.)

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 24th February arrived, per M. M. steamer *Ernest Simons*, on the

28th March (32 days); and the American mail of the 1st March arrived, per P. M. steamer *City of Peking*, on the 30th March (29 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK

Shanghai now has its own Pasteur Institute.

The *Echo Macaense* states that no cases of plague have occurred at Macao.

The capital of the Russo-Chinese Bank has been raised to 7,500,000 gold roubles, equal to £1,200,000 sterling.

Steps are being taken at Shanghai for the formation of a German Association on the lines of the China Association.

Sir Claude Macdonald left Taku on the 23rd March in H. M. flagship *Bouffeur* for Weihaiwei, where he was to stay two or three days before going on to Shanghai.

Der Ostasiatische Lloyd denies that the Belgian syndicate has been unable to carry out its engagements with regard to the proposed Peking-Hankow railway.

Arrangements for the taking over of the new Kowloon territory are now in progress and during the past week officials have been going over the ground selecting sites for the police stations and other Government offices to be established there.

We (*Rangoon Gazette*) hear from Bhamo that Captain Davies and Captain Ryder, who are travelling in Yunnan in connection with the Yunnan railway survey, were stoned by a mob in Momein. The Prefect came to their rescue, took them into his own yamen, and punished the rioters.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* says that Messrs. William Forbes & Co. have secured the contract for 6,762 tons of rails and fastenings to be delivered at Tang-ku this Autumn, and a similar contract has been placed with Messrs. Jardine Matheson for delivery at Ying-kow in the Autumn.

The friends of Mr. Dmitrevsky, lately Russian Consul-General at Shanghai, will learn with great pleasure that his health is restored and that he is on his way back to the Far East in the *Ernest Simons*. He goes to Korea, in charge of the Russian Legation at Seoul during the absence on leave of Mr. Pavloff.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The American forces in Luzon are now making a forward movement, General Wheaton's brigade advancing towards Malolos. According to the latest advices the Filipinos were being steadily driven back, but they were offering a desperate resistance and inflicting substantial losses on the attacking force. The Filipinos' own losses are heavy.

A Peking telegram published in the Japan papers states that the British marines were withdrawn from that city on the 23rd March, and that the Russian marines will also be withdrawn in a few days. The Japanese troops will leave the city by the middle of April next. A Japanese paper states that the foreign forces have been withdrawn from Peking at the request of the Chinese Government.

The property of the Foochow Tea Improvement Co., Limited (in liquidation), is advertised for sale by auction. This is a melancholy ending to what seemed a promising venture, but it is to be hoped nevertheless that further efforts in the same direction may be made.

The following notification, signed by the Harbour Master, appears in the *Gazette*:—The attention of this Government has been directed to the fact of the illegal use of the British flag on certain vessels. Only vessels having certificates of Imperial registry under the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, or vessels having certificates of Colonial registry under Ordinance No. 26 of 1891, are entitled to be recognized as British ships and to fly the British flag.

Kang Yu-wei left Yokohama for America by the *Idsumi-maru* on the 22nd March. Before leaving he paid a visit to the British and United States Legations, and had an interview with the Ministers. It is reported in the Japanese vernacular press that owing to the fact that the assistance rendered by certain Japanese to Kang Yu-wei and other Chinese refugees had injured the feelings of the Chinese Government officials the authorities caused the Japanese concerned to persuade the refugees to leave the country. It is said that some yen 7,000 was collected as travelling expenses for Kang and others.

On Saturday a writ was served on W. F. Sylvester, of the firm of Louis Spitzel & Co., of Tientsin, by an officer of the United States Consulate-General, on board the Messageries Maritimes steamer *Caledonien*. The writ was in a suit filed with the United States Consular Court at Canton on March 17th, 1899, E. B. Drew versus W. F. Sylvester. E. B. Drew seeks to recover the sum of 15,000 taels alleged to be due under a bond to the petitioner from the defendant, which provided that the American steamer *Abbey* should convey direct to the port of Singapore, and to no other place, 500 Mauser rifles and 500,000 Mauser cartridges. On the strength of this bond a Customs permit was granted. The shipment, however, was not landed as agreed in Singapore, but proceeded to the island of Luzon. The steamer *Abbey* was seized on or about the 25th September last, and is at present in the hands of the United States Naval Authorities.

Professor Jordan, in an address given at Stanford University on "The question of the Philippines," said:—"But civil service reform is the special abhorrence of most leaders in the movement for annexation; the petty offices the Philippines promise are the basis of half their influence. Is there any guarantee of better things when civil rule in the islands shall succeed martial law and the natives are turned over to amateur experimenters in colonial administration? The appointment of civil officials in the Philippines means a carnival of the spoils-men. The United States must prepare itself for scandal and corruption in greater measure than it has ever yet known. Already such scandals are ripening in Manila if we may trust the guarded language of our volunteer soldiers. The "embalmed beef" and the rotten commissaries are only the first instalment. What shall follow will be more flagrant. There is one depth lower to which we may fall. Infinitely worse than politics in the army is the French system of the army in politics. That is the next stage of imperial decadence."

THE BRITISH AND RUSSIAN SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

(Daily Press, 30th March.)

In view of the recent telegram stating that a Convention defining the respective spheres of Great Britain and Russia in China is about to be signed, Lord CHARLES BERESFORD's proposal of a quadruple alliance to hold Russia in check and guarantee the integrity of China loses most of its practical interest. The question now is, what is the character and extent of the influence that the Powers are to exercise in their respective spheres? What will happen in the Russian sphere it is not difficult to surmise. We do not think that any very material restrictions will be laid on foreign trade, for it is obviously to the interest of Russia to favour the commercial development of Siberia and of so much of China as may be included in her sphere of influence, and moreover the convention with England will no doubt contain binding stipulations as regards the latter; and every if in the long run some means should be found of favouring Russian trade, foreign trade in general will nevertheless have a more open door than it has enjoyed under Chinese rule. From a commercial point of view therefore the change cannot fail to be for the better. But there is also the political point of view to be considered. The Russian sphere enjoys a climate more favourable for European settlement than the English sphere, and in a comparatively brief period Manchuria will become practically Russianised, with a considerable Russian population, Russian troops to protect the railway and other interests, and with Russian officials to control the administration. The Russian sphere will be something real and tangible and a factor to be reckoned with in Far Eastern politics.

But what about the English sphere? Is it to be a merely nebulous sphere, a sphere without determined boundaries or specified rights, like the Yangtze Valley; or are we to exercise an effective control within an area capable of being clearly marked on the map? If we claim that within our sphere no alienation of territory shall take place, thereby preventing other Powers exacting territorial satisfaction for outrage or insult, it follows that we must assume responsibility for the maintenance of order. We cannot permit within our sphere outrages such as that practised on the martyred Father VICTORIN and at the same time cry "hands off" to France. It seems impossible therefore to deny or escape from the responsibilities, or—large and unwelcome as the order may be—to treat our sphere otherwise than as a protected state, with equal privileges to all nationalities, but with the administration under British control. In this connection Lord CHARLES BERESFORD's proposal for the creation of an efficient Chinese army assumes practical importance. Light draught gunboats will be able to maintain order along the Yangtze and the West River, but for the enforcement of order at a distance from the river banks troops will be required, and those troops must necessarily be officered by Europeans if efficiency is to be maintained. A leaven of foreign troops, British or Indian, might also be expedient. And side by side with the creation of an efficient army will go the work of financial reform, by which the illegal exactions and restrictions placed on foreign commerce will be removed and the course of trade facilitated. We hope the programme of the British Government may be found to run somewhat upon these lines, but we cannot profess to be altogether void of fear that it may be otherwise.

PARTITION OR REFORM.

(Daily Press, 27th March.)

A communicated article in the *N. C. Daily News* protests against the "loud croakings predicting the partition of China," which have been intensified by Italy's demand for Sanmun Bay. According to this writer, "while it is true that Manchuria seems destined to fall under Russian influence and perhaps to eventually become part of the Russian Empire, so far there is little else to justify us in saying that the dissolution of the Chinese Empire has commenced. Dots on the map like Kiaochau, Weihaiwei, and Sanmun somewhat resemble the marks of vaccination. They may result in diffusing a beneficent influence throughout the body; but they are protective, they do not break it up. One may fairly argue that the more places are 'leased' to different foreign Powers the safer China will be. Mutual jealousies have done much in the past to prevent progress, and these jealousies will be accentuated if the present development continues." There would be something to be said for that contention if the acquisitions of foreign Powers were really represented by dots on the map like Kiaochau, Weihaiwei, and Sanmun. The effect upon China of such dots might indeed be no greater than that of Hongkong has been. But what the various Powers want, and what Germany has obtained, is a large and well defined sphere of influence behind their several "dots." It is inevitable that in these spheres foreign influence must control and in the long run possibly oust the native administration. "Dissolution" as applied to any empire, and to China in particular, is perhaps used in a rather loose sense, but it sufficiently expresses the idea that the Chinese Government, if not actually doomed to extinction in name, is as a matter of fact being reduced to a state of impotence and defencelessness. China has not so many provinces that she can afford to part with one to this Power and another to that, and still not feel her vitality impaired.

"What is really happening in China," the writer in our Northern contemporary goes on to say, "is the commencement of a vast change which will make the country a serious factor in Eastern politics. Railways and mining concessions, no doubt greatly the result of the late 'leases,' will immensely increase commerce and the welfare of the people; but China will not change much in internal politics. There has been abundant pressure on Turkey and Persia: with what result?" With the result, as regards Turkey, that the Turkish possessions are now much smaller on the map than they used to be. And there is this distinction between Turkey and China, that the Turks are a fighting race capable of opposing some resistance to aggression, whereas the Chinese are not. The performance of Germany at Kiaochau could not be repeated so easily in Turkey. As regards Persia, she will sooner or later have to go into the melting pot. Neither of the illustrations employed by the writer seems very apt.

What impression, he asks, does Western civilisation make on the Asiatic, and he replies:—"The Chinese in California are still Chinese, and so they are in the Straits. What influence have well-ordered and cleanly settlements had upon the neighbouring cities? Has Shanghai city improved since we showed how municipal affairs are managed in the West? The most ridiculous example of the emptiness

of this talk about the breaking-up of China is to be found in the Settlement Extension 'deadlock.' But that is no example at all. If Settlement extension has not as yet been granted it is only because no one has definitely said it must be granted. If the Municipal Council ordered out the Volunteer Corps to-morrow to occupy the area desired for the extension there would be no resistance and the Chinese would thereafter accept the accomplished fact. The writer, still referring to Settlement extension, says:—"The point is, that if such obstruction is what happens in the case of a demand which is eminently reasonable, and where Chinese will actually benefit from concession, what would be the course of events if simple conquest were in view?" Why, the course of events would be similar to what it was at Kiaochau. If Germany had asked for Kiaochau she might have been asking still, but instead of asking she took the place, and there was nothing more to be said about it. The writer goes on to say:—"It would not pay any Power to conquer China. The job would be too big and take too long, even supposing no other Powers interfered." But the country in its present state hardly requires conquering; it is open to any Power to take a piece here or there, as Germany took Kiaochau, and although the piece so taken may remain nominally Chinese the Peking Government will in course of time have as little to say in its administration as Turkey has in the administration of Egypt. The mistake Italy made in regard to Sanmun Bay was in asking for it before her fleet had arrived; if she really wanted the territory she should have kept her own counsel until her vessels were on the spot, then have taken possession, and thereafter notified the fact at Peking.

It is possible, however, that the country will not remain in its present state, that there may be a radical reform of the administration, and that China may once more become able to hold her own. Having in the earlier part of his article contended that Western civilisation has no influence on the Chinese, in the latter part the writer in our northern contemporary gets on the right track and concludes as follows:—"Open the country up by moral persuasion, assisted now and again by some sharp physical compulsion, and the resulting trade would show profits all the better for not being diminished by the expenses of a costly administration. China will hold together for a long time yet. There are no caste or religious distinctions, as in India, to keep the people apart. It is possible that if any more 'leases' are granted the people may begin to suspect there is something rotten in the Central Government which had better be changed, and if once the ball of progress be set rolling it will move pretty quickly. The Chinese is not only a keen money-maker but he is an inveterate gambler. Any mine that pays, every railway that shows good profits, will start plenty of others. The ball is now oscillating. One or two more vigorous pushes and it will commence a career which will probably prove exciting." These remarks will, we think, secure general endorsement. The question is, will the people change the "something rotten" in the Central Government? If not, other Powers will change it for them.

Yokohama papers announce the death of Mr. F. A. Cope, a well-known resident at that port. Deceased had formerly been in affluent circumstances, but the last years of his life were passed in poverty.

RAILWAYS IN YUNNAN.

(Daily Press, 25th March.)

To those who hold the idea that the province of Yunnan offers a promising field for British trade and enterprise the first report by Mr. J. W. JAMIESON, Acting British Consul at Ssumao, will not prove encouraging. The report is on the "Prospects of development of commercial intercourse with South-western Yunnan and a short account of the trade of Ssumao;" and is characterised by Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD as a very interesting and valuable report. In this judgment we fully concur. Mr. JAMIESON has evidently taken great pains to glean all possible information as to the productions, the trade, the climate, and the people of Yunnan, and though many of the facts were known before, through the observations of Mr. COLBORNE BABER, Mr. COLQUHOUN, and other travellers, yet he adds many important items to the stock of information, and helps us to better appraise the prospects of opening up a paying trade with this remote country. Mr. JAMIESON is well aware that his report must tend to dash unfounded hopes, for he comments on the fact that Yunnan is, judging from public utterances and articles in the Press, still regarded as a very important factor in the commercial development of China, and goes on to characterise as impossible the many schemes propounded for the construction of railways whereby to open up the country, and finds it difficult to understand on what grounds such sanguine hopes of Yunnan's future prosperity are based, when it is seen what little support has been given to such illusory ideas by competent observers conversant with actual facts. With regard to the resources of the province Mr. JAMIESON sums up the matter in the following sentences:—"I am quite prepared to admit that the mineral wealth of Yunnan is great, but the difficulties in the way of working the same are so formidable that they are certain to deter all who wish for some return on their outlay from investing capital in mining enterprises, at least in the southern and western sections of the province. Apart from minerals, the province possesses few other resources, and the inhabitants are unenterprising and lazy to a degree. So long as they can grow enough rice to feed themselves and procure enough cotton wherewith to make the few articles of clothing necessary in this equable climate, they are content."

Referring to the practicability of building railways, Mr. JAMIESON quotes and endorses the remarks made by Mr. BABER on the same subject some years ago, when he said:—"I do not mean that it would be absolutely impossible to construct a railway. A high authority has informed me that if shareholders will provide the money they will always find an engineer to spend it. By piercing half-a-dozen Mont Cenis tunnels and erecting a few Menai bridges, the road from Burmah to Yunnan-fu could doubtless be much improved." Mr. JAMIESON says the above passage "was written with special reference to a railway from Bhamo to the provincial capital, but the same holds good for any projected railway in southern and western Yunnan into Szechuen. Small stretches of line could always, for a certain length, be run up the river valleys, but they would only lead to unimportant towns, with little or no trade either en route or between the termini." It is all very well to make Indian railways up to the Yunnan frontier, but it will take many years to develop any paying trade

in that province itself, while the cost of carrying railways through the almost impassable ranges of mountains there would be absolutely prohibitive. The roads are exceedingly bad, and these Mr. JAMIESON thinks may be improved with great advantage to the trade, such as it is. The population, however, is thin and with the exception of some of the aboriginal tribes—who are reputed to possess some hoarded wealth—the people are poor and with few wants. There is a great demand for quinine owing to the prevalence of malarial fevers, and for cheap articles of every day household use there is also a fair market. But the trade is at best of a peddling description, and the traders will make long journeys of two or three weeks' duration to realise a few dollars. Even Ssumao, which was popularly supposed to be quite a busy mart, is a delusion in this sense. He says:—"When contrasted with the miserable hamlets met with by travellers in these parts the first impression created by Ssumao is that of a bustling centre of trade. This effect is due to the fact that all the business of the place is concentrated in a small section of one street, which is at all hours of the day and night thronged with country-people and 'mahis' connected with the tea and cotton caravans. When, however, one goes more closely into the matter this illusion vanishes. Ssumao possesses no shops of any kind, not even cash shops. What little trade is done is carried on in small stalls on the street leading to the south gate and on the parade ground in front of the Custom House, and the only establishments of any importance are the hong where tea is sorted and packed and the dye-houses which dye homespun cloth."

The staple industry of the town is the preparation and packing of the celebrated Puerh tea, in which some twenty-five firms are engaged. Concerning this industry Mr. JAMIESON has gathered a good deal of interesting information, which shows that its importance has been over estimated and that the quality of the product is not equal to its reputation. No authentic record is extant of the date when this industry was first started, but mention is made of it in the records of the Fang dynasty (A.D. 600-900). There are various qualities of the tea, and great quantities of it are cultivated on the right bank of the Mekong by the Shans of Menghai. The merchants value the tea trade of Ssumao at from Tls. 130,000 to Tls. 140,000 per annum, and the total duty collected on it last year, as supplied by the Sub-Prefect to Mr. JAMIESON for the three places Ssumao, Munnai, and Ipang, was Tls. 10,600. Statistics for the hills are not available, but Mr. JAMIESON thinks a reasonable estimate for the value of the whole trade would be £35,000. The second great industry of Ssumao is the spinning of yarn and weaving of cloth out of cotton imported from the Burmese Shan States and from the French Laos. The value of the trade in cotton and its products is estimated at from Tls. 70,000 to Tls. 80,000 per annum. The value of foreign cotton and woollen goods imported last year was Tls. 5,000, and these came from Rangoon. The duty on the exports figuring in the Customs returns for 1897 was Tls. 31,378. Of these 77 per cent. were reported as exports to Burmah and 23 per cent. to French Indo-China. Amongst local products used for home consumption Mr. JAMIESON says that great quantities of sugar cane are grown in the neighbourhood, but the quality is not of a very high class. Yunnan is also a great honey producing country, every household possessing two or three

hives in the shape of hollow logs of wood hung up under the eaves. Tobacco is largely grown in the hills round Ssumao, but of very coarse quality. Indigo is also largely produced, and the consumption is put down at 10,000 catties a year. A poor quality of vegetable oil is extracted from *Brassica pincea* which sells for 8 to 9 cash an ounce. Paper of a very good quality is made out of the fibre of *Broussonetia papyrifera*, which is sold for 4 to 7 cash per sheet, while a coarser kind is produced from bamboo and varies in price from 50 to 70 cash per "tao" of 50 sheets. Mr. JAMIESON is naturally not enthusiastic on the prospects of Ssumao, which he says has not a brilliant future to look forward to, but there is reason to hope that the volume of its foreign trade may prove capable of some slight expansion. "Whether such expansion," he adds, "will prove of benefit to the only British trade which appears to have appreciated the fact that a new port has been opened—I refer to the wine trade whose enterprising representatives lost no time in addressing circulars to this Consulate—is another question!" Still, it is only a question of time when railways will penetrate Yunnan, and future generations may regard the present pessimistic reports on the commercial resources of the province with as much amusement, for instance, as that with which we now regard the earlier reports on the capabilities of Hongkong as an emporium of trade.

DR. DOBERCK AND THE MANILA STORM WARNINGS.

(Daily Press, 28th March.)

The *Manila Times*, in an article on Dr. DOBERCK's attack on the Directors of the Manila Observatory, says:—"The only notable storm which has ever struck Hongkong from the north-west (instead of south-east according to rule) was of course not signalled from Manila, because it never came here; it was not announced by DOBERCK, because he had not received warning from these Manila incompetents whom he despises. He notified at 4 p.m., 10th December, 1891, 'Gradients easy N. E. winds, fine weather,' and at 10 p.m. there was a hurricane which sank the British gunboat *Tweed* at her moorings, wrecked the sailing ship *Aron*, collided the steamers *Fushun* and *Bisagno*, beaching both of them, and covered the Praya several feet deep in wreckage of hundreds of junks." In this statement there are several inaccuracies of detail. In the first place, the storm referred to occurred on the 3rd December, not on the 10th, and it was in another storm together, namely, one that occurred on the 19th July, 1891, that the *Tweed* came to grief. The fact remains, however, that on the 3rd December a violent gale broke over the harbour, doing great damage amongst both foreign and native craft, and no word of warning as to its approach had been given by the Observatory. Nor is any description of that or other storms given in the annual report for the year in question. It is certainly unfortunate for the reputation of the Observatory that on the one occasion when Manila was unable to give information concerning the approach of a storm the local institution should have proved itself so incompetent to make an independent forecast.

In 1893 the Chamber of Commerce forwarded to the Government a recommendation signed by all the principal shipping officers to the effect that a committee should be appointed to enquire into the system adopted

at the Observatory of issuing meteorological reports and furnishing weather forecasts. The Chamber supported the recommendation, remarking that the value to a community largely interested in shipping, and also to the native boat population, of early information regarding atmospheric disturbances and the probable course of typhoons forming in the neighbourhood could scarcely be over-estimated. As Manila, from its situation, must in almost every case have information of the formation and probable course of typhoons some days before the Hongkong Observatory the opinion expressed by the Chamber of Commerce on that occasion might be applied equally to the undesirability of discontinuing the storm warnings from that station. As well might the English meteorological authorities try to dispense with information telegraphed from America, which information is in point of fact the most material element on which their forecasts are based.

The Government acceded to the request of the shipping community and appointed a committee, with Dr. DOBERCK as the chairman, but owing to the impracticability of that gentleman the committee resigned without having arrived at any definite result. The members of the committee, in addition to the chairman, were Captain A. W. MILLER, R.N., Captain A. TILLET, and Captain F. D. GODDARD. These gentlemen desired to add two more to their number, and in forwarding their recommendation to the Government Dr. DOBERCK wrote:—"I would venture to call His Excellency's attention to the fact that I do not know any precedent for appointing anybody on such a committee except meteorologists. On the present committee meteorology is represented by myself only, and there are three nautical gentlemen who are not acquainted with the subject." Captain G. C. ANDERSON subsequently joined the committee. On the members learning, however, of the terms in which they had been referred to by the Chairman they naturally took exception thereto, and this it was that led to the break-up of the enquiry. In forwarding the resignations to the Government Dr. DOBERCK said:—"That the members knew nothing of the subject is proved by the fact that they did not finish the Committee and agree to a report in one sitting, as a committee consisting of meteorologists would have been able to do. I was obliged to enter into rudimentary explanations to enable them to understand the first principles of issuing weather forecasts." The members in a joint letter to the Government took exception to this statement. That Dr. DOBERCK did enter into rudimentary explanations, they said, was undeniable, "but it was not by our wish or desire, and he was frequently assured by us that it was unnecessary, as not only we, but most shipmasters and nautical men were well acquainted with these principles. Assuming, however, his prerogative as Chairman of the Committee the rudiments were carefully expounded before Dr. DOBERCK could be induced to proceed to more weighty matters." Taken in connection with his recent attack upon the Manila Observatory the expressions made use of by Dr. DOBERCK go to show that that gentleman has an inflated idea of the extent of his own knowledge and attainments and that he entertains no respect for other people's. The value of the information supplied by the Manila Observatory is great and undeniable and we trust that the Government will not sanction the discontinuance of such informa-

tion through the acts of one of its servants. The Government is as a rule reluctant to pass any public censure upon an official or to publicly disavow his acts unless in extreme cases, and rightly so, for censure on an individual officer touches more or less directly the dignity of the civil service as a body; but the present is a case in which consideration for the public interest should override any service considerations that may arise. Navigators cannot be deprived of valuable storm warnings, and be thereby exposed to disaster, merely because an official of the Hongkong Government regards the source of those warnings with envy.

CREMATION.

(Daily Press, 30th March).

In connection with Mr. GRANVILLE SHARP's lecture on cremation delivered on Tuesday afternoon the fact may be recalled that in September last the Sanitary Board recommended the Government to erect a small crematorium for the purpose of burning the bodies of cattle dead of infectious disease and also on a separate site a small public crematorium for the use of such sections of the public as might desire to avail themselves of it. The recommendation was not accepted, but the fact that such a recommendation has been made by a public and official body may be taken as indicating that the sentiment in favour of cremation is growing. The sanitary objections to the disposal of the dead by earth burial are now generally recognised, but public feeling has not yet attained sufficient strength to induce the Government to move in the direction of making cremation general or compulsory. The feeling may perhaps rather be described as one of indifference, there being no active hostility to cremation, and, on the other hand, no marked inclination in its favour except on the part of a few. If facilities for cremation were provided, however, they would probably be taken advantage of in an increasing ratio year by year as example gathered force. Shanghai, being a self-governing community and more progressive than Hongkong, has already provided itself with a crematorium. We are afraid it will be a long time before the Government of Hongkong will be induced to move in the same direction, but if any gentleman of fortune inspired by philanthropic motives would make a present of a crematorium to the colony possibly the Government would not object to become responsible for the cost of upkeep.

SUPREME COURT.

25th March.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

CHAN A KEUNG V. CHU KING WAN AND OTHERS.

The Chief Justice, in delivering judgment in this suit, said plaintiff brought the suit to claim an injunction to restrain the defendant from carrying on in the empire of China or in any tribunal whatsoever other than that honourable court any suit or other proceedings in which defendants allege that the plaintiff is one of the partners in or was otherwise responsible for the debts of the King Wa firm on the ground that the plaintiffs and defendants reside and carried on business within the jurisdiction of that honourable Court and that the said King Wa firm had always had its place of business in this colony and had no place of business in the empire of China. On 4th March,

the plaintiff obtained an *ex parte* motion for an order in terms of the writ of summons. On 21st of March, Mr. Francis, on behalf of the defendants, moved to discharge the order by way of an injunction on two grounds—(1) that the Court had no jurisdiction to make the order sought to be discharged, (2) that even if the Court had jurisdiction the Court ought not on the facts placed before it by the plaintiffs to have made the order. The law applicable to the case here did not appear to be different from the law applicable to similar cases in England. Section 18, sub-section 2, of the Code of Civil Procedure, even if it had application, was not different from the English law on the subject, because it was substantially in the same terms as Section 82 of the Common Law Procedure Act 1854. Substantially the law of the colony was in the same position as the English law. The cases, therefore, decided by the Courts of Law in England of this kind might be held to govern the Court in this suit. The declaration filed by the plaintiff and his son supported the application for the writ of summons, and showed that the plaintiff and defendants resided in this colony and carried on business in this colony. His Lordship referred to the cases bearing on injunctions granted by the Courts in England to restrain proceedings in foreign courts, and applying the principles laid down in these cases to the present case he said he came clearly to the conclusion that if the proceedings sought to be restrained in this case were in a country subject to the influence of European civilisation there would be no right to grant an injunction against the continuance of these proceedings. Was that view altered by the fact that these proceedings had taken place in a Court in China which was not subject to the influence of European civilization? That was a question of some difficulty. It was a very large question. He thought, generally speaking, the Courts in China were not regulated in the same way as British Courts. He had not a precise knowledge of them, but he was not prepared to say that the Courts in China could not exercise justice fairly and impartially. It might be their procedure was not as complete and as advanced as in English Courts, but still there were no reasons before him why he should say litigants could not obtain complete and perfect justice before Courts in China. It might be defendant had a perfect right to proceed before the Sun U Magistrate's Court, and he did not think the Court ought to restrain him from doing so if he had such right. If he had such right, he presumed the Sun U Court would say so; if he had not such right he presumed the Court would also say so. He did not think there was sufficient reason for his interference in the proceedings in the Sun U Court, and he thought the case of plaintiff had failed. At the same time if plaintiff was able to establish any independent equity in the sense he had referred to and asked for an injunction, he wished it to be understood that the judgment was not to interfere with his right to do so. At present the grounds he had put forward were not sufficient to maintain his action, and therefore on the authorities he had referred to the suit failed.

The defendant obtained the general costs of the suit, plaintiffs receiving the costs of an adjournment occasioned by shortness in the period of service of a notice of motion, each side to bear their own costs on a motion to commit.

Mr. H. E. Pollock (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for plaintiff; Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. C. Ewens) appeared for defendants.

27th March.

TANG YANG MAU, BY HIS NEXT FRIEND TANG CHANG SHI, PLAINTIFF V. BRUCE SHEPHERD, ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF TANG LOK, DECEASED, AND TANG KAM SHI, EXECUTRIX OF THE ESTATE OF TANG TUNG SHENG, DECEASED, DEFENDANTS.

Mr. Francis, Q.C., instructed by Mr. Holmes, for the plaintiff; Mr. Pollock, instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings, for Tang Kau Shi; Mr. Slade, instructed by Mr. Ewens, for Tang Ho Shi; and Mr. Robinson, instructed

by Mr. Hastings, for the administrator (Mr. Bruce Shepherd.)

His Lordship gave judgment as follows:—

In this case the parties interested in the subject matter of the suit, with a view to putting an end to a protracted and expensive litigation, came to an arrangement for the settlement of all disputes as to the distribution of the estate of Tang Lok, deceased, and for the division of his estate amongst themselves, after the payment of specified sums of money to certain other persons. This arrangement was embodied in an agreement in writing, bearing date the 10th January, 1896. One of the items of this agreement was that, on the ultimate division of the estate, the infant plaintiff's share of it was to be "assigned to the said Tang Chang Shi, upon trust for the said Tang Yang Man." This agreement was brought before the Court for its sanction, and on the 11th January, 1896, the Court made an order by which it "approved of the agreement and ordered that the suit should be settled and the division of the estate of Tang Lok, deceased, finally determined under the order and direction of the Court according to the terms of the agreement." The agreement was then recited in full in the order.

The case came before the Court on further consideration on the 11th August, 1897, but the point as to the disposition of the plaintiff's share of the estate was not dealt with in the order then made.

The defendant Bruce Shepherd now moves the Court for an order to vary the order of the 11th January, 1896, in so far as it directs the assignment in trust for the plaintiff of his share in the estate of Tang Lok and that in lieu thereof the said defendant may be directed to retain the share of the plaintiff in the estate until the plaintiff attains the age of 21 years and, on his attaining that age, to assign and pay over his share to the plaintiff himself. The motion is rested on the grounds that, in respect of the point in which it is impeached, the order of the 11th January, 1896, was or might be prejudicial to, and at any rate was an invasion of the rights of, the defendant Bruce Shepherd, as administrator of the estate of Tang Lok.

It is also alleged that when the order was made the defendant Bruce Shepherd was absent from the colony and that he never gave any consent to the order or instructions to any one to consent to it on his behalf, and further, that, shortly before the case came on for further consideration, he became aware of the terms of the order and at once objected to it on the point on which it is now impeached and informed his solicitors and the plaintiff and his next friend of his objection. As has been already said, however, the point was not dealt with on further consideration. But with regard to these allegations I may say at once that it appears to me, on the facts placed before me, that the solicitors of the defendant Bruce Shepherd had full authority to represent him in the suit, that they were cognizant of the terms of the agreement and order, and that the defendant must be held to be bound by the order.

At the hearing the motion was supported by counsel for the defendant Tang Kam Shi and for Tang Ho Shi, a party having leave to attend the proceedings, and it was opposed by counsel for the plaintiff.

In these circumstances two questions arise for the consideration of the Court, namely, 1st Has the Court power to make the order asked for, and 2nd If the Court has such power, is it right and proper that that power should be exercised and the required order be made?

With regard to the first of these questions I have looked into the authorities cited by Mr. Robinson on behalf of the defendant Bruce Shepherd and by Mr. Francis on behalf of the plaintiff. If it were necessary to decide the point, I should be prepared to hold that the Court has, in the exercise of its ordinary jurisdiction, power to rehear, and, on sufficient cause shown, to vary, any judgment or order pronounced or made by it. But it is in my opinion unnecessary to search for an answer to the first of the two questions in these or other authorities of the like kind, because I think the point is concluded by express enactment governing the procedure of the Court. By section 68 of the Code of Civil Procedure the Court is empowered, on such terms as may seem just, to review any judgment

or to order a re-hearing or new trial, with or without a stay of proceedings. It is true that we are here dealing with an "order" of the Court, and that there is in the Code no definition of the word "judgment" which makes it inclusive of "orders." But I have no doubt that the word judgment as used in this section is properly applicable to an order of the kind now under consideration, in which the real questions at issue in the suit were considered and determined. In *Ex parte Moore, In re Faithfull*, 14 Q. B. D. at p. 632, Lord Selborne, L. C., said:—"To constitute an order a final judgment nothing more is necessary than that there should be a proper *litis contestatio*, and a final adjudication between the parties to it on the merits."

I am further of opinion that the application to vary the order of the 11th January, 1896, in the manner set forth in the notice of motion is an "application to review" within the meaning of the section.

It will be observed that under the above-mentioned enactment an application to review a judgment may be made as of right on notice of motion filed not later than fourteen days after the decision. After the expiration of that time an application for review is not to be admitted except by special leave of the Court, on such terms as may seem just. In the present case the Court gave leave to the defendant to give notice of motion for a particular day, and I think this may be taken to be equivalent to admitting the application to review by special leave of the Court.

I think, therefore, that the Court has power to make the order now asked for by way of review of the order of the 11th January, 1896.

It is next to be considered whether a proper case has been made out in support of the motion so as to justify the Court in exercising its power to make the order asked for.

It has been pointed out that so far as the matter under consideration is concerned the order of the 11th January, 1896, seems to have been made without the attention of the parties or of the Court being drawn to its real nature and effect. The Court took care to ascertain that the arrangement proposed by the agreement was in substance for the benefit of the plaintiff, but it does not appear to have specially considered the question of how the plaintiff's interest under the arrangement was to be dealt with. Now, if the defendant Bruce Shepherd or any party to the agreement were asking the Court to vary the order of the 11th January, 1896, in any essential particular, as, for instance, in respect of the distribution of the estate, I should have no hesitation in refusing the application, at least in the absence of consent by all parties, on the ground that the order was founded on the agreement and that it is not competent for the Court to make a new agreement for the parties. But I am unable to regard the provision for the assignment in trust of the plaintiff's share as of the essence of the agreement, or in other words to believe that it formed a material part of the consideration for the making of the agreement, and I think therefore that the Court has a discretion as to whether it will order this provision to be varied.

It is this provision is to remain unchanged and is to be carried into effect, it plainly involves a direction to the defendant Bruce Shepherd to transfer the plaintiff's share to Tang Chang Shi in trust for him. Indeed the proposed minutes of the order on further consideration of the 11th August, 1897, contained a direction to this effect. It was argued on behalf of the defendant Bruce Shepherd that the Court had no power to compel an administrator to make such a transfer of a part of the estate vested in him to a person not entitled in law to accept the transfer and therefore not empowered to give him a valid discharge, and further that, even if the Court had such a power, it would not exercise it when the result might be to expose him to legal proceedings at the instance of the plaintiff in the event of the share so transferred being wasted. I am bound to say that on both these points I regard this contention as well founded. It is clear that an administrator would have no power of his own motion to make such a transfer of property vested in him in right of his office, and I am of opinion that the Court would be acting *ultra vires* if it were to order him, in spite too of his protest, to make such a transfer.

And if such an order were made and carried into effect, it may well be doubted whether it would afford to the administrator a protection against proceedings by the plaintiff if, on his coming of age, he found his shares lost or diminished in value by reason of the transfer having been made. On this head reference may be made to the fact mentioned in the course of the argument that the order of the 11th January, 1896, in approving of the assignment of the plaintiff's share of the estate, contains no provision for the giving of security by the assignee for its safe custody and management. Further, the order is silent with respect to the contingency of the plaintiff or the assignee dying during his minority, and it may well be conceived that, on the occurrence of such an event, considerable inconvenience might be caused by the want of such a provision.

Then there is the question of the relative fitness of the two parties primarily concerned in this matter to have the charge of the plaintiff's share until he is entitled to claim and receive it for himself. On the one hand there is the person lawfully entitled to retain the charge of the share, that person being at the same time an experienced officer connected with this Court, who is thoroughly conversant with the management of all kinds of property in this colony, and in whose capacity and integrity the Court has entire confidence. On the other hand there is a lady whose only title to consideration rests in the facts that she has been designated by agreement of the parties as the person who should have the charge of the plaintiff's share and that she is the plaintiff's mother. But with regard to the first of these points the other parties to the agreement now desire to undo their act in designating her as trustee for her son, and with regard to the second point it does not follow that because she is the plaintiff's mother she is qualified to have the care and management of his share. Indeed, in his affidavit of the 16th February, 1899, the defendant Bruce Shepherd says that he has known Tang Chang Shi for several years, and that she is not in his opinion a fit and proper person to have the control and management of the plaintiff's share of the estate. This statement was not contradicted by evidence on the other side. As between these two persons, then, I can have no hesitation in holding that it will be better for the plaintiff's interests that his share should remain in the hands of the defendant Bruce Shepherd than that it should be transferred to his mother.

On the whole matter I come to the conclusion that, so far as the question under consideration is concerned, the agreement and order now under review were apparently made without due attention being given to their nature and effect, and that it is for the benefit of the plaintiff that the arrangement thereby provided for the control and management of his share during his minority should be changed. I accordingly order that the order in this suit made on the 11th January, 1896, be varied in so far as it directs that the share of the plaintiff in the estate of Tang Lok, deceased, be assigned to Tang Chang Shi upon trust for the plaintiff, and that in lieu thereof the defendant Bruce Shepherd be directed to retain the said share until the plaintiff attains the age of 21 years, and on his attaining that age to assign and pay over the share to him.

Any necessary alterations consequential upon this order will also be made in the order under review.

If all the parties consent to such an order, I will direct that the costs of all parties upon this motion be paid out of the estate; if there is no such consent, I will hear counsel upon the question of costs.

H.M.S. *Linnet* arrived at Shanghai on the 18th March from up-river. It is reported that she is to take Sir Claude MacDonald to Nanking for the opening of the port.

The Japanese Foreign Office is in receipt of a telegram from the Japanese Consul at Townsville, under date of March 18th, stating that on the 4th inst. a terrific gale swept the northern coast of Queensland and at least 150 Japanese, engaged in pearl fishing, were drowned.

THE WAR IN THE PHILIPPINES.

THE AMERICAN ADVANCE.

SEVERE FIGHTING.

SEVERAL TOWNS CAPTURED.

AN AMERICAN GENERAL KILLED.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]
MANILA, 26th March.

On Saturday at daylight General McArthur's division advanced east from Calocan and La Loma and swung round to the north, taking several towns and inflicting heavy loss on the enemy.

Twelve thousand troops with twelve guns were engaged.

The enemy is now retreating towards Polo and the sea.

Malabon was burned.

General Egbert was killed while leading a charge.

The American losses were about a hundred and seventy-five.

THE FLYING BRIGADE
EXPERIMENT.INSURGENTS STILL CONFIDENT
OF VICTORY.

MORE TROOPS ARRIVE.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT].

Manila, 22nd March.

Hostilities began on February 4th; it is now March 21st; nearly two months have passed and more than half the fighting line remains in the same position it attained as far back as February 10th. The only movement of importance has been the work of what has been termed the flying brigade. This is an organization under command of Brigadier General Wheaton, composed of mixed volunteers and regulars and provided with artillery and the use of two river gunboats manned by the army. It was thrown out to the east of Manila and began the work by attacking and clearing out Guadalupe and San Nicolas; then it pressed on through the rough, well covered country some three and a half miles to the bluffs overlooking Pasig, Pateros, and Taguig, and from this high ground all these towns were bombarded. However, the Pasig and Taguig rivers separated the enemy and left them fairly safe in the bamboo jungles, while on the American side for several hundred yards before reaching the bank the fields were entirely open and almost without protection. Considerable delay was caused by the lack of the necessary transportation, but finally cascos and launches were sent up the river and the troops were ferried across to Pateras after the place had been raked over by the artillery. A lively fight ensued in which the insurgent loss was about fifty and the American twelve in killed and wounded. More than one month ago this same village of Pateras was practically captured; in fact it was partly burned by a little force of three companies of the 1st California Volunteers, and there were no casualties, but after the victory the men were ordered back to camp, some five miles in the rear, and the fruits were lost.

From Pateras to Taguig is only a short stretch, and after capturing the former Wheaton's men pressed on and drove the natives back from Taguig right up to the shores of the lake into a position from which they could not escape, and one hundred and fifty were taken prisoners. Only a handful of arms was seized, as the natives threw them into the river and lake to avoid letting them fall into American hands.

THE TAKING OF PASIG.

Just to the north of these towns, where the river bends, lies the once prosperous town of Pasig. It has fared better than the rest and fire has not demolished it and left only smoking, blackened stumps marking the success of the army. Pasig was splendidly fortified with several lines of well constructed trenches, garrisoned by a large number of troops estimated at about three thousand. On the morning of the attack the Americans were drawn up on the opposite side of the river one thousand strong, facing the insurgent trenches 900 yards

away. Two companies of the Oregon were landed and marched around the west front to attempt to gain the rear and prevent escape, for Pasig is an island with only a bridge to connect it with the mainland, and over this the natives must escape or swim the river with heavy equipments. A battalion of the Washington Volunteers was towed across and sent to the east as flankers, while a battalion of the 20th U.S. Infantry assailed the trenches from the front. One field gun of the 6th U.S. Artillery was mounted on the bluffs on the American bank and from its commanding position shells were dropped into any place desired. Time and again they exploded on stone walls sheltering the enemy, tore off a tiled roof, or breached the walls of the last resort, the church. The battle waged with great violence for seven hours, and even after the troops were within 800 yards of the church the fiercest street fighting was carried on. It was the best organized and sustained resistance the Americans have met and the natives fought with desperation surprising in a time of surprises.

From this time to last Sunday's battle with its famous fifteen mile run, tactics were adopted that meet the approval of but a few observers and are unanimously condemned by the troops themselves. The brigade turned out and accomplished some astonishing marches, fighting as it went, burning all obstructions and menaces in the shape of houses or jungles, and then rushed back to its former positions. The country was cleared for the immediate moment, but as nothing was held and no advance made in positions beyond Tagnig on the south and Cainta on the East, the natives followed in the wake of the retiring troops, took up their old positions again, and soon had themselves in as good a condition to resist advance as before. For instance, Taytay and Cainta were taken at a loss of some four killed and seventeen wounded and the former was then given into the hands of the insurgents again, inasmuch as it was not occupied. Last Sunday's work completed a week of what might be called brilliant achievements, but advantage was not secured from the work performed. A march of fifteen miles was made along the lake from Pateras to the vicinity of San Pedro Tunason, ten towns are on the list of the burned, and the popular estimate of killed and wounded varies from 200 to 300. The American loss was four killed and nineteen wounded. After experiencing a few moments of stubborn opposition at the start the fight turned into a chase; though small detachments here and there had sharp skirmishes with similar bodies of natives in well chosen positions. It was a soul wracking march in the heat of the day across rice fields, through jungles, alternately soaked in creeks and steamed in the hot sun; and the men were completely exhausted. General Wheaton telegraphed in that he had gone fifteen miles into the enemy's country driving everything before him and that he ordered a retreat. This last clause was the most galling of all to the men. They did not mind the fight, the heat, the loss of food, but they did object to giving up captured ground, knowing that to-morrow the slightest attempt at an advance would mean the same fight all over again. Late in the afternoon the stragglers began returning to camp and continued walking, resting, moving a few hundred yards and stopping again, until dark. It was a feeble army that was returning, weakened by the work of the day and trudging back seven miles to dinner. Had the enemy been alert it would have gone hard with the boys.

The execution of the week has been estimated at 2,000 killed, wounded, and captured, while the American loss was 12 killed and 76 wounded.

Since Sunday there has been no action whatever, all the lines remaining undisturbed.

To-day the *Salace* arrived from New York. During the Cuban campaign she was used as a hospital boat and will perform the same duty here.

The transport *Sherman* brought the 3rd U.S. Infantry and one Battalion of the 17th U.S. Infantry, who are now being put ashore preparatory to going on the lines.

Within the next two days there is every probability of an extensive advance along the northern division, and when it begins it is hoped that the march will extend to Malolos.

Occasional advices leaking through the lines from the interior go to show that the Filipinos are showing very few signs of weakening and are confident that once the Americans leave the vicinity of Manila they will be defeated.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at 3 p.m. on Monday, the 20th March,—Present: Messrs. R. M. Gray (Chairman), A. Haupt, J. J. Bell Irving, T. Jackson, A. McConachie, W. Poate, H. A. Ritchie, N. A. Siebs, T. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting (held on the 7th February) were read and confirmed.

THE FUTURE FISCAL POLICY IN THE
PHILIPPINES.

Read letter from Singapore Chamber of Commerce, dated the 9th March, acknowledging receipt of Chamber's letter of the 8th Feb. thanking the Committee for the information regarding the proposed action of the Manila Chamber with reference to the fiscal policy for the Philippines.

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING CONSOLIDATION
ORDINANCE, 1899.

A letter having been received on the 13th February from the Government enclosing a copy of the draft Bill, asking the consideration thereof by the Chamber, the opinions of various experts were sought and obtained on the provisions of this measure, and these notes and reports are now being considered by a Sub-Committee consisting of Messrs. J. J. Bell-Irving, A. Haupt, W. Poate, and H. A. Ritchie.

A reply was, on the 28th February, addressed to the Government stating that the Bill was under consideration, and that the result of such consideration would be sent in on the earliest possible date.

THE PLAGUE AND QUARANTINE.

Letters had been received from the Government—

On the 11th March announcing that Hongkong had been declared an infected port by the Rangoon Government.

On the 16th March, announcing receipt of telegram from Straits Government that nine days' quarantine is imposed at Singapore on arrivals from Hongkong.

On the same date, enclosing copy of letter from Netherlands Consul-General, stating that quarantine restriction—ten days—had been imposed in Netherlands Indian ports against vessels from Hongkong and that imports of animal refuse, tapestry and used embroideries, and bags or sacks were temporarily prohibited.

On 17th March announcing that Hongkong and Calcutta had been declared infected ports at Batavia.

THE PHILADELPHIA COMMERCIAL

MUSEUMS.

Read two letters, dated 23rd January, from the Director of the Philadelphia Commercial Museums, the first conveying a third invitation to the Chamber to accept permanent membership on its International Advisory Board, and the latter announcing that a Universal Commercial Congress will be held, under the auspices of the Museums, at Philadelphia, in October next.

Also read a further letter, dated 2nd February, advising the despatch to this Chamber of a Card Index File Cabinet, which the Museums Committee trust will be given a prominent place in the Chamber's rooms.

The Secretary stated that no bill of lading had yet arrived.

THE PARIS UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION, 1900.

Read a despatch from Colonial Office, sent by the Government for perusal, in reference to the above exhibition, stating on what terms private firms in Hongkong who might wish to avail themselves of the privilege of exhibiting in the Colonial Department could do so.

Decided to send copies of despatch and enclosure to the local papers for publication.

THE MANILA OBSERVATORY AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE HONGKONG OBSERVATORY.

Read letter addressed to the Chairman of the Chamber by Rev. José Algué, S.J., Director of the Manila Observatory, under date 7th March, in which he complains that the Director of the Hongkong Observatory had addressed the Weather Bureau of the U.S. Government in very unfavourable terms regarding the Directors of the Observatory at Manila, stating that "the Observatory in Manila is in the hands of men who possess very little scientific education, and asserting that scandal is caused by the Observatory continually communicating sensational typhoon warnings to the newspapers in Hongkong. The Rev. Director added that "the immediate effect of this accusation has been the actual suspension of all telegraphic typhoon warnings given at Manila for any place outside of the Philippines?"

Mr. Whitehead gave notice of the following resolution, which was read:—"The Committee of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce desire to convey to the Rev. Father José Algué, S.J., the expression of their extreme regret and dissatisfaction at the unjustifiable attack made upon the Rev. Director of the Manila Observatory and his colleagues by the Director of the Hongkong Observatory, and at the consequent stoppage by the American Government of the telegraphic meteorological warnings from the Philippines. The members of Committee desire to place on record their high appreciation of the very valuable services at all times rendered by the Directors of the Meteorological Department of the Manila Observatory to the mercantile shipping community in Hongkong and China, and their hope and expectation that in a very short time full justice will be done the Directors of the Manila Observatory by the acknowledgment of the immense practical value of their labours in the past for the public benefit and in the cause of science, and the removal of the restriction recently placed upon them;" but after some discussion, it was decided that, it being necessary that the case should not be prejudged, a letter should be first addressed to the Government expressing the Committee's opinion that the telegraphic storm warnings from Manila had been most useful and that their discontinuance would be viewed with extreme regret by the commercial community, and asking to be favoured with a copy of Dr. Doberck's letter to the Weather Bureau at Washington.

Mr. Whitehead thereupon agreed to postpone the resolution until receipt of the reply from the Government to the Chamber's letter.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 1898.

The draft report of the Committee was then considered, paragraph by paragraph, and passed. The annual meeting was fixed for Wednesday, the 5th April, at 3 p.m.

THE SCOTCH CONCERT.

The annual concert under the patronage of the Hongkong St. Andrew's Society took place in the Theatre Royal on Saturday evening and was as usual well attended. His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Blake) and H. E. Major-General Gascoigne (Commanding the troops) honoured the proceedings by their presence. By the kind permission of Colonel Mainwaring and officers of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, their band played selections during the evening. Mr. D. R. Crawford, hon. treasurer of the St. Andrew's Society, lent a grand piano for the occasion. The following gentlemen acted as accompanists:—Major Somerville, Mr. A. G. Ward, Mr. G. P. Lammert, and Mr. G. Grimble.

Appropriately enough there was a pronounced flavour of "across the border" about the programme, which was, however, sufficiently varied to suit different tastes, there being a judicious blending of the humorous and the sentimental. The banded off with a polonaise from "Flora McDonald," exceedingly well played. They also commenced the second part of the programme with a piece equally suitable—"Scotland's pride" (Godfrey), which was, judging from the hearty applause which it received, thoroughly appreciated. Bishop's well-known glee "Hail to the chief" was well rendered by Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Grimble, Mrs. Mitchell,

Mrs. Lowson, Mrs. Lafrentz, Miss Stopani, Mr. C. H. Lammert, Mr. Macgregor Forbes, Mr. Hill, Mr. Mirow, and Dr. Lowson. Mr. Waddell was the first solo vocalist to make his appearance. Being an old favourite with Hongkong audiences he was accorded a hearty reception. His beautifully light tenor voice was heard to advantage in "Afton Water." Mrs. J. A. Lowson, a local favourite who has not been seen much of of late, was warmly greeted on her coming forward to sing "Weaving song" and "Ho-ro, my nut-brown maiden," both of which were prettily sung. Two fine bouquets were handed to her before she left the stage. Piper Bruce followed with a bagpipe solo, "Cock of the north." We do not profess to be particularly good judges of bagpipe music, but those who do say that Piper Bruce gave a capital rendering of this popular piece, though if he had put a little more spirit in it it would have been better. The audience were much pleased with the manner in which Mrs. G. R. Vallings sang "O, whistle and I'll come tae ye, ma lad" and "Duncan Gray," both of which were encored. On each occasion a couple of handsome bouquets were presented to her. Mrs. A. G. Gordon was the other lady soloist. The touching melody "Auld Robin Gray" was most effectively sung by her and was encored and brought forth more floral tributes. A banjo duet, "Bonnie Scotland," was played by Messrs. N. G. Evans and Wai On, and Dr. Jordan introduced a pleasant change in the form of a few selections on the phonograph, including a song by Mr. Ferguson, a well-known member of the Singapore St. Andrew's Society, and a short speech by the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, the popular chieftain of the Hongkong Society. Dr. Lowson and Mr. "Macmeier" provided the humorous element. The former, whose get-ups were very good, created much amusement by his singing of "When McKay cam hame," "Jock McCraw," and "Old long since ago," he being rewarded by a copious shower of cabbages, carrots, and other produce of the kitchen garden. Mr. "Macmeier," attired in kilts, sang a German song which took immensely. No doubt very few of his auditors knew what the song was about, but his facial contortions were so amusing that it was none the less successful on that account. "Auld Lang Syne," followed by "Gold save the Queen," concluded the programme.

HONGKONG VOLUNTEER CORPS.

ANNUAL INSPECTION.

On Wednesday afternoon the annual inspection of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps was made by H. E. Major-General Gascoigne, who was accompanied by H. E. the Governor (Sir Henry Blake), the honorary colonel of the Corps, and a number of the Officers of the Garrison. The Major-General arrived on the ground at about five o'clock and was received with a general salute. The corps mustered at Headquarters, the following being the numbers present on parade:—Staff, four officers and one non-commissioned officer; Field Battery, three officers and 89 non-commissioned officers and men; Machine Gun Company, three officers, 34 non-commissioned officers and men, and two signallers. This, with the two sergeant-instructors, gives a total of 134. The men, who looked very smart, went through several interesting manoeuvres.

After the inspection, H. E. Major-General GASCOIGNE said—Officers and men of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps, I am very much pleased indeed with this my first inspection of you. The turn-out has been remarkably good. I can see evidence of great care and pains having been taken in the way the men have turned out. The principal thing that I care about is that the numbers on parade, I am informed, are very much larger than those last year. I see a very small number of absentees without leave, but there should not be one absentee from an inspection. The meaning of an inspection is that the inspecting officer can see what a regiment is worth. He wants to see those who have drilled a small amount as well as those who have been constant in attendance at drill and it is only by everybody turning up at an inspection that the real worth of a regiment can be seen. I know that you have difficulties, and in speaking to you I

am speaking to those behind you, the employers of labour, and I say most distinctly that here in Hongkong, where the Volunteers are a part of the defensive force, I am sure it is every man's business, every employer's business, to give the men who have taken the trouble and have the patriotism to volunteer into the Volunteer Corps, leave to attend the few times when I, the Major-General, call upon them to attend, and while I am here I shall expect to have a few as General. You have had a very great compliment paid to you by having His Excellency the Governor to command the regiment and I know that he, with me, will expect that he should command a thoroughly efficient corps. I certainly mean to do on my behalf all that I can for the regiment, but I can only do it if they meet me in the same spirit, and when I arrange to have a parade at such a time as will suit you without interfering unduly with your work I expect to see you come. I am very much pleased indeed with what I have seen to-day. Of course I can tell that there are some detachments, some portions of you, that have had more drill than others. Well, that only wants practice. On the whole I am very much pleased indeed with what I have seen, and I shall take every opportunity of seeing a good deal of you during the time I am in command.

The Corps afterwards marched to Headquarters but before being dismissed H. E. the GOVERNOR (honorary Colonel) addressed the men, complimenting them on their appearance and expressing the hope that their numbers would increase.

The men gave His Excellency three cheers and a "tiger."

Major Sir JOHN CARRINGTON also made a few remarks, in the course of which he referred to his coming departure, adding that he hoped to find their numbers increased on his return a few months hence. He further added that Lieut.-Col. Mainwaring, of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, would act as Commandant in his absence, and that they were getting a new adjutant from the regiment. He concluded by calling for three cheers and a "tiger" for Captain Gordon, the adjutant, who is going away.

Captain CHAPMAN then stood out and called for three cheers and a "tiger" for the popular Commandant, a call which was heartily responded to.

Major JOHNSON of the 5th Canadian Artillery, also said a few words.

MR. GRANVILLE SHARP ON CREMATION.

On 28th March Mr. Granville Sharp delivered, under the auspices of the Odd Volumes Society, a lecture on "Cremation" in the City Hall. Mr. H. E. Pollock presided over a fairly large audience.

Mr. SHARP, at the outset, remarked that the subject was not the most cheerful or lively; nevertheless it was important. Cremation was of very ancient origin and very general early use. Burial had somehow taken its place. Why they knew not, unless from destruction of forests and scarcity of wood, or possibly from painful associations with fire, as the figure employed to represent the suffering state, at last, of the impenitent? A reaction against burial began half a century ago, upon the revelation of the horrors of metropolitan Church yards.

Said Mr. Sharp:—"Twenty-five years ago Dr. (now Sir Henry) Thompson, on returning from a Continental tour, drew attention to the subject of cremation, as practised in Italy; and any progress which has taken place in popular opinion upon this matter is largely due to his influence and writings. Its sanitary importance is incalculable, but like all other changes of customs, long established, that from burial to cremation has been and must be slow. There are the tenderest feelings surrounding the grave in the quiet Church yard, the family vault under the weeping willow. A place generally undisturbed for a long course of years, and religiously visited by returning wanderers from distant lands. There, in the deep shade and retirement of the wood, was Rachel's grave; and there, the Patriarch exclaims, "I buried Leah!" We must, however, bear in mind that this was the Pastoral period. People then lived in tents, and not in streets of ten storied houses. They

were families and tribes only, making their homes in the wild prairies, not city folk, of five millions together, where one may walk for miles without seeing a blade of grass.

"It is these enormous aggregations of humanity which invest the question of the disposal of the dead with an importance which it would not otherwise possess.

"Even in this little, but rapidly increasing, city of Hongkong, it is high time that we devoted ourselves to the consideration of this subject.

"We have a population of 260,000 souls. Of these some 2 per cent. or less die every year, or say about 5,000. Those who understand such matters, tell us that it takes about half a century for a corpse, buried under the usual conditions, to be entirely resolved into its original elements, 5,000 by $50=250,000$; and this number, according to the calculation just mentioned, we may consider as now rapidly accumulating as our population increases. A quarter of a million of corpses, in all stages of decay. These all lie quiet, but they are by no means inert. The British, as well as the Chinese idea appears to be to preserve these treasures, and, as in the case of some other gatherings, we may discover that true wisdom lies in distribution rather than accumulation.

"Li Hung Chang's coffin, which he carried with him to Europe, and back, cost, it is said, \$50,000, and in England, although we hardly go to this excess, we also 'choose a tree that will not rot' to encase our friends, and endeavour, by means of seasoned oak, leaden shells, brick, stone, and cement to postpone—we cannot defeat—nature's beneficent processes.

"The advocates of cremation strongly recommend a very different course, viz., that by excessive heat, we at once resolve the body into 5,000 cubic feet of gas and 5lbs. of ashes. That we *etherialise* our friends instead of burying them. That thereby we should prevent, in great measure, propagation of disease and suffering. Besides this, many thousands of acres of valuable land now appropriated to cemeteries would be saved, one acre alone sufficing to preserve the cremated remains of our Hongkong dead for a period of 200 years.

"I have just sent £10 10s. to the Cremation Society of England with the request that, should my death occur in England, they will be good enough to cremate my body at the "Necropolis," Woking. Will you permit me to say that I regard this matter as one of the most vital interest. Colonel Elsdale, Commanding the Royal Engineers, told us lately that the English lack imagination. Whether that be so or not, we are still superstitious to a degree and withal impatient of instruction. In respect to the treatment of the dead we are behind the civilization of India and Japan, whilst every European nation is in advance of us.

"I have respectfully ventured to charge the English people with being impatient of instruction. Is not this the experience of most travellers on returning to our beloved native land? We are reminded by the supreme event, which we this week celebrate, that it is possible for individuals and peoples to be blinded to the perception of the truth, which God only reveals to those of teachable disposition, whilst it is hidden from the eyes of others. There must be some cause for the terrible scourge from which we have suffered in Hongkong in the past, which is now driving the inhabitants from Bombay, and causing deep anxiety in Calcutta. In the presence of such calamities it becomes us to turn aside occasionally from our rupee and dollar seeking, and, bowing our knees in reverential awe, to inquire—are there truths to which we are still oblivious? Are there any warnings to which we are indifferent? Are there leadings which we fail to appreciate? Are there scientific elders whom we refuse to hear? Let us humble ourselves, that we may be instructed. 'And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers', and thine ears shall hear a voice behind thee, saying this is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left."

Mr. Sharp then went on to quote what Sir Henry Thompson, the members of the Council

of the Cremation Society of England, and others have to say upon the subject.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Sharp for his interesting lecture, on the motion of Mr. POLLOCK, who remarked that Mr. Sharp had brought home to them very clearly the evils which resulted, and which must inevitably result, from the burial of the dead. He believed it was a fact that in Shanghai at the present moment there was a crematorium in existence which was modelled upon the lines of the crematorium established in England in the city of Manchester, and he thought that perhaps, looking at the smallness of the area of the Island of Hongkong, the time had now arrived when many of them might usefully consider the question whether it was not advisable that they should also have a public mortuary in this colony established to the end that those who desired that their relatives should be cremated instead of buried at death might be able to adopt that form of disposing of the dead.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SANITARY BOARD.

MORE CASES OF RINDERPEST AT CAUSEWAY BAY

On 27th March a special meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held to consider a further outbreak of rinderpest at Causeway Bay. The President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Vice-President (the Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police), the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. A. W. Brewin (Acting Registrar-General), Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. C. W. Duggan (Secretary). Mr. C. V. Ladds (Colonial Veterinary Surgeon) also attended.

The SECRETARY read a report from Mr. Ladds stating that another outbreak of rinderpest had taken place at Causeway Bay in a new shed immediately behind the stables declared infected. There were 10 cows and one calf in the shed, and of these five cows showed distinct signs of infection. He recommended the immediate slaughter and burial of the whole 11 animals.

The PRESIDENT said that as there was some doubt as to the legality of the meeting held the previous day, he ordered the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon to slaughter the diseased animals and issued notices for the meeting that day.

On the motion of Dr. CLARK, seconded by the VICE-PRESIDENT, the shed in question was declared an infected area.

On the motion of Dr. CLARK, seconded by the Hon. R. D. ORMSBY, the action of the President in ordering the slaughter of the diseased cattle was confirmed.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I beg to move that the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon be asked to furnish a report in writing as to what steps he took on the resolution of the Board at the meeting held on the 8th March, when I moved that proper arrangements for the isolation of the cattle and attendants be made by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon with the assistance of the police. It does not appear to me that any arrangements were made at all, or very inadequate ones.

Mr. LADDS—I can answer that question now. I gave the police specific instructions through the Inspector what to do, and I cannot make him carry out the duties if he does not carry them out.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I should like a little more detailed information. I should like it in writing and on record.

The PRESIDENT seconded, and the motion was carried.

The *N. C. Daily News* says the dredger *St. Enoch* is doing excellent work at Weihaiwei, lifting over 100 tons per hour.

At the general half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the Yokohama Specie Bank a dividend at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum was declared.

H.M.S. *Woodcock* was at Hankow on the 18th instant. We believe she is going to survey the Tungting lake and will not attempt to go up to Chungking this year.—*China Gazette*

REVIEW.

From Peking to Petersburg. By ARNOT REID, London: Edward Arnold. 1899.

THE provocative cause of his journey, Mr. Reid tells us, was a very matter of fact one. He had already travelled from Singapore to London by way of Japan and America and by way of the Suez Canal, and desiring to travel homewards again he wished to do so by a different route. That was the initial reason, but also, as one deeply interested in the political outlook in Asia, he wished to traverse the old routes of overland trade and to judge of the uses and possibilities of the new Trans-Siberian Railway. Mr. Reid's example may possibly be followed by others who are in like case and to such the record of his experiences will prove especially welcome. The book will appeal, however, to a much wider circle than that made up of voyagers to or from the Far East, for it is a well told tale of travel such as will be appreciated by the large class who like to view the world from their own armchair, and it deals, moreover, in a lively and original strain, with the great political question now agitating the whole civilised world, namely, the future of China.

Mr. Reid struck across the so-called desert of Gobi to meet the Siberian railway at Irkutsk, and since he was able to obtain the necessary permits no doubt the way will be smoothed for others, who will owe some obligation to him for having established a precedent. Of this part of his journey Mr. Reid says, "The memory of my journey in the Desert of Gobi must ever remain as one of my most pleasant experiences of travel." It would appear to be necessary to select the time for the journey with some care, however, namely, after the rainy season is over and before the dusty weather begins. But as not many will care for travelling on horseback or by cart for eighteen days the number who will follow Mr. Reid in this part of his journey will necessarily be limited; of those who elect to travel homewards by the Siberian route the majority will no doubt prefer to bridge the gap between the eastern and western sections of the railway by following the Russian post roads. In two or three years there will be railway communication all the way and then no doubt the Siberian route will be a strong competitor with the Suez and Pacific routes.

Mr. Reid's book consists in part of articles written for a syndicate of newspapers, of which the *Daily Press* was a member, but the account of the journey has been extended somewhat, and chapters have been added on "The People of China," "Railways in China," "Missionary Work in China," "Of Concession-hunting," "Russia's Strength," "The Pressure on China," "What should Britain do?" etc. Of the Chinese people our author has a high opinion, and he thinks the Chinaman would make a good though not the finest type of soldier. "I believe," he says, "that if Britain would take the opportunity to handle China as we have handled Egypt we could raise in twenty years an army that would hold the world at bay, and we could build up in half-a-century a native administration that would be the best that Asia has ever seen."

Mr. Reid has his own ideas as to how the political difficulty in China should be solved. He would "propose to America to make a treaty, to make it openly before the whole world, a treaty of which the substance would be that Great Britain and America would guarantee the integrity of China within absolute precise geographical limits, and would defend their own. Necessarily, they would concurrently assume the right to control the Government of China, and they would necessarily accept the responsibility of full international responsibility for the acts of that Government. In other words, my proposal would be that the whole of China, except such portions of it as might be given as a sop to other states, should become an Anglo-American Protected State."

If the negotiations with America failed Mr. Reid would approach Russia, and the proposal that he would make to her he describes as follows:—

"Having failed with America, I would propose a deal with Russia. I would not seek to hide the fact that I had failed with America, and I would honestly admit that the proposal I had to make to Russia was not so suitable, from

the British point of view, as the proposal I had sketched to America. According to my Anglo-American scheme, the intention would be to reserve nearly the whole of China as a 'Protected Native State,' in the hope and belief that that state would some day be able to stand alone. The proposal to Russia, on the other hand, would be that she should undertake to control, in such way as pleased her best, Manchuria, most of Mongolia, and all the North of China (including Peking), and that Britain should undertake to control the Great Plain and the Yangtze Valley and that Germany and France should be bought off with much larger pieces of territory than would have fallen to them under the Anglo-American treaty."

As regards the railway journey across Siberia, at the time Mr. Reid travelled, in the autumn of last year, first-class carriages were not provided east of Krasnovarsk. The section from Krasnovarsk to Irkutsk had been, partly to oblige the public, opened sooner than was intended, and before it was fully equipped. The consequence was that travellers had to rough it. The first part of the journey was made with twenty-six persons in a second-class carriage which was seated for fifteen and which for all-night travel would have been comfortable for ten. At Krasnovarsk most of the discomforts ceased. In his chapter on "People that I met" Mr. Reid says:—

"Turning to Siberia, the best opportunities I had for seeing the people lay in the very thing that might have been supposed to prevent me from seeing them. I travelled through Siberia continuously on a railway train, and I am almost inclined to think that I saw more of the Siberian people in that fashion than I could easily have seen of them in any other. It is to be observed that the train was a corridor train, and that people loafed about from one class of carriage to another in a way that would not be tolerated in any country of Western Europe. A lady travelling first-class, and having, as it might well be, a compartment to herself, would use it habitually for the reception of friends from the second and third class.

"It was the same with ourselves. When I had, as sometimes I had, the exclusive use of a first-class compartment, my Russian friends would drop in there from an inferior class of carriage, would smoke there, would eat there, and would talk there. We were a happy family all mixed up together, sweeping cheerfully away such purely artificial distinctions as are born of tickets marked respectively First, Second, or Third. Other travelling opportunities that I had of meeting the people were found at the stopping stations, in the rush to the buffets, the reserving of seats there, and the assistance that I had to ask for in the matter of interpretation. At the river ferries also we were all very much mixed up together, helping in the removal of each other's luggage, forming parties to secure seats, and generally travelling as a harmonious party.

"The conclusion that I came to, as the result of it all, was that the people were very nice, and frank, simple, and helpful in their ways."

A *train-de-luxe* runs once a week over a part of the route.

THE CHARGE AGAINST AN ARTILLERYMAN.

PROCEEDINGS AT THE MAGISTRACY.

At the Magistracy on Saturday, before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, William Crowley, a private in the Royal Artillery, was charged with assaulting David Mackinnon, an engineer, and causing him grievous bodily harm.

Dr. John Bell, assistant superintendent at the Government Civil Hospital, said that on the 15th inst., at about 9-15 p.m., David Mackinnon was admitted suffering from a wound in the right eyeball. On the 17th inst. Dr. Atkinson and he removed the eye. Mackinnon had lost his sight in his right eye.

Margaret Nichol, barmaid at the Praya East Hotel, said that between seven and eight o'clock on the evening of the 15th inst. defendant came into the hotel. He was slightly under the influence of drink. He was sitting among some other soldiers in the room near the bar. A lady friend of hers came in and defendant jumped up and caught her round the waist. He

went away at about eight o'clock and she did not see him again that evening. Defendant had a stick with him like the one produced.

Letitia King, aged 14, said she remembered March 15th. It was a Wednesday. Her sister Ella and she and her mother and Maudie Parker and Mr. Mackinnon were in five rickshas. At about 8 p.m. they were driving past Fenwick's Engineering Works in Praya East. Her sister was in the first ricksha, Maudie in the second, she was in the third, her mother in the fourth, and Mr. Mackinnon in the fifth. She saw a man come from under the verandah and rush into the road. She saw him grab at the first ricksha, but he missed it. He also grabbed at and missed the second. He then grabbed at her ricksha, and seized the wheel on the right side. Her ricksha was on the harbour side of the road. He ultimately seized her by the throat. Then Mr. Mackinnon came up. He and the man struggled together. Then the man struck Mr. Mackinnon with a stick and ran away.

Mrs. King also gave evidence.

Complainant said he was an American subject. On the evening of the 15th instant he was in a ricksha on Praya East. He was with Mrs. King and her two daughters and Miss Parker. He was in the last of five rickshas. When near to Fenwick's Engineering place he saw a man catch hold of Miss Letitia King's ricksha. Seeing this, witness's coolie swerved to the right and ran in front. The man had then got the girl by the throat. Finally his ricksha was stopped. He got out, went to the man and asked him what his reason was for stopping the young lady's ricksha, and the answer he got was a blow in the face. He returned the blow, hitting defendant in the mouth, he thought. He had no sooner done that than defendant drew a cane or something from under his left arm and hit him across the eye with it. The cane had some sort of lump on it at one end which went right into his right eye. For a few moments he could not see with either eye, but before then he had had a good view of defendant, going right up to him and being face to face with him. He thought defendant was minus head-gear. As soon as he recovered himself he got back into his ricksha and sat down, as he could not do anything. He did not see what became of defendant. He went into the hospital the same evening, and his right eye was taken out on the 17th. On the following day defendant was brought to the hospital and he identified him, picking him out of 12 soldiers, all in the same uniform.

P. C. Kerr said that on Wednesday, March 15th, he was on duty on Praya East. At about 7.40 p.m. he saw defendant go into the Praya East Hotel. He carried a stick in his hand. At about 8.50 p.m. he saw him coming up the footpath in Arsenal street and go into Queen's Road. At the last house at the south end of Arsenal Street he saw a Chinaman standing, and he saw defendant hit him with a stick. Witness caught hold of defendant and asked him why he had struck the man. Defendant replied, "What! is it your business?" Witness then called the Chinaman forward and asked him if he wanted to charge defendant with striking him. The Chinaman said no, so he cautioned defendant and let him go. The stick which defendant was carrying was a bamboo like the one produced. Witness then turned round to go towards Praya East down Arsenal Street when a gentleman stopped him and asked him if he had seen an Artilleryman passing along, and why he had not arrested him. He asked him what should he arrest him for, and the man complained that a gentleman had had his eye knocked out. Witness then went towards Blue Buildings and met the elder Miss King and Miss Parker. They complained that the younger Miss King had been assaulted by an Artilleryman, who had also knocked Mr. Mackinnon's eye out. He took them to No. 2 Police Station. On the 17th instant he attended Victoria Barracks and identified defendant. When he saw defendant in Arsenal Street he was without a cap.

Frank Steadman, a gunner of the R.A., said he was on sentry go at Victoria Barracks on the evening of Wednesday, the 15th inst. He saw defendant enter the barracks at 11.10 p.m. He was in uniform but had no cap. When he

went off duty he saw defendant in the guard-room. Defendant's clothing was covered with mud.

R. G. Emslie, acting bombardier in the R.A., said that on the night of the 15th inst. he took the stick produced to the guard room in Victoria Barracks. He found it in the top verandah. He did not know to whom it belonged. Beside the stick he found defendant's regimental belt.

Inspector Moffat said that on the 17th March, shortly after four p.m., defendant was paraded with 21 other Artillerymen at Victoria Barracks. Miss Letitia King and Mrs. King were there but they failed to identify defendant, who was then No. 12 on the right. He was then placed No. 16 to the right and Miss Parker and Miss Ella King were brought in. They also failed to identify him. P.C. Kerr was then brought in and he picked out defendant. On the 18th instant defendant was paraded at the Civil Hospital with ten other Artillerymen. He was then No. 4 from the right and Mr. Mackinnon identified him without any hesitation. When charged defendant replied, "I reserve my defence."

His Worship said he should probably commit this case for trial, but before finally deciding he should take some time to think over it.

The case was adjourned until Tuesday, when the accused was committed for trial.

FOOTBALL.

HONGKONG WINS THE SHIELD.

Much interest was centered in the final match for the Hongkong Challenge Shield played on Saturday, the contesting teams being the Hongkong Football Club and 33rd Company, Southern Division, Royal Artillery.

This morning opened dull and threatening rain; the latter, however, held off until about three o'clock, when it commenced to drizzle, but when the match started there was a steady, thick downpour of the watery element, soon drenching the players and also the 2,000 (about) spectators. The Football Club this season had wisely covered the stand it had erected, and the rain mattered little to the people under its shelter. It poured so fast, however, that the ground became saturated in a very short time, sadly interfering with the play, making the ball heavy and greasy, and causing the players to stumble and fall in all directions. Although there was a good number of spectators present, the inclement weather kept many away; the stand, however, was just as full as if the atmospheric conditions had been pleasant, and amongst those who occupied seats, Sir Henry, Lady, and Miss Blake were prominent.

Previous to starting the Club team was photographed at the side of the club-house, and then the players entered the field to the cheers and shouts of their supporters. The Artillery made their appearance a minute later and also came in for an ovation. Both teams lined up as follows:—

HONGKONG F.C.		ROYAL ARTILLERY.	
Goalkeepers—		Murphy	
F. Kew		Backs—	
Anton		P. S. Bell	
Pinckney		Wilson	
Halves—		Gidman	
Looker (capt.)		Kelly	
C. T. Kew		Brown	
Howard		Forwards—	
Lowe		P. Bell	
H. E. Green		Mill	
Noble		Lt. Greene	
Hancock		Frost	
Danby		Stiles	

The Artillery won the toss and Hongkong kicked off, defending the goal nearest the club-house. Danby secured the ball off Noble, and it was passed in to Green, who gave to Lowe, but the soldiers cleared the latter's centre, and got into the Club's territory. Lowe secured and sprinted back, but when about to shoot he fell. Looker rushed in, got possession, and essayed at goal, but he shot over the bar. Noble and Danby were then prominent, and the latter, after cleverly eluding two opponents, got close up to the Artillery's posts, but the wet ball turned off his foot and went wide of the mark when he attempted to score. (Greene, of the

Artillery, tried to get away, but Green, of the Club, got possession of the leather and passed to Lowe; the slippery state of the ball, however, prevented any scoring being done. Again Lt. Greene secured and got up close to the Club's backs, who were too smart for him, and the ball was sent out to Howard, he feeding Danby. The latter kicked for goal, but the Artillery saved and got away. Kew stepped in, neatly took the ball from Kelly, and then the Club penned the soldiers well in their territory for several minutes. Play for a time waged to and fro over the centre line, when Danby was enabled to get close to the Artillery goal through the efforts of Kew and Howard, but Wilson relieved. Kew and Green then combined and gave to Lowe but the wing man's shot was wide. The ground by this time had become almost a quagmire, and every step taken by the players sent the water in sprays for yards, sometimes even rising above the men's heads. Bell, Mill, and Greene brought relief to their side, and got dangerously near to Hongkong's uprights. Howard smartly secured, centred to Noble and he passed out to Lowe; the latter counterpassed, and Noble tried to score, Murphy giving a corner in trying to save. The ball was secured by the Artillery after Lowe's kick in and a rush made by them into the Club's quarters. Bell, Frost, and Greene tried to score with capital shots, but the defence of the Club was equal to the attack, and Anton tried to clear. Several short exchanges were made, still in the Club's half, which the soldiers got the best of, and they were ceding a corner. There was a short relief from the corner, but Lt. Greene got hold of the ball and sent home a shot which compelled Kew to handle and caused him to give another corner. Do all the Club players would, they could not relieve, and they experienced rather an anxious time, their good defence only being effective in keeping a clean sheet; the soldiers' play was all that could be desired under the circumstances, being pertinaciously determined. Looker was the one to bring relief, and he sent to Green, but Lowe just rolled the ball into touch after crossing the fifty line when he looked like getting fairly away. He was conspicuous a minute later in a good sprint and a very good attempt to score, the ball going very near the upright. Hancock appealed for a foul, but the referee ended the matter by blowing his whistle for the interval, the game standing:

Hongkong nil
Artillery nil

Before the end of the first half there was a welcome cessation of the rain, and when the second portion of the game was started, the thirsty earth had almost exhausted the pools of water. Hongkong was the first to attack, but P. S. Bell cleared and Kew made a mis-kick, letting in Stiles, who rushed off at top speed and finally attempted to score, but his kick was wide of the mark. On the Club getting to the soldiers' end, Danby centred to Noble, but he was too hard pressed to shoot, and he passed the ball out to Lowe, who returned the leather right across the goal's mouth, and Danby ran in to try and put it into the net, but missed it altogether, and the ball rolled over the goal line outside the posts. C. Kew was playing at this period a vigorous and brilliant game, doing good headwork, and repeatedly balked the soldiers in their attempts to get away, and spectators did not forget to accord their plaudits. It was through him that Lowe, Noble, and Hancock were enabled to institute another attack, and hotly press the soldiers well on to their goal, and Lowe put in a superb screw shot which compelled Murphy to handle. A free kick fell to the Club, but Anton's kick was short, and the ball was taken by the soldiers to the centre. It was immediately taken back again, Noble, Howard, Danby, and Green participating in a hot attack, causing P. S. Bell to cede a corner. Lowe took the flag kick, but sent the ball outside. Kew was again prominent, and seeing a clear field he tried a shot at goal, a regular grass skimmer, which Murphy just cleared before being rushed by Noble. At this period the Artillery were not making a good show, and Danby, Lowe, and Noble sent home shots which Murphy twice had to save, the other shot just sailing over the bar. The soldiers then assailed, and a bombardment of the Club's goal took place. Kew had to handle a shot from P. Bell

and a header from Gilman, which he did in good style. Hongkong's goal was then put out of jeopardy through Howard and Danby, the latter making a brilliant run quit fifty yards before centering to Noble. Being surrounded Noble passed to Lowe, the Club's "flyer" just failing to put the ball into the net by a few inches entirely out of the reach of Murphy. After a short relief by the Artillery, the Club assailed again and was busy pressing when Mr. Oliver blew time, with the game still standing:

Hongkong nil
Artillery nil

Extra time was ordered, and the Club started the ball rolling. From the start, the Club players had all the best of the game. Noble almost scored from a corner kick, and Lowe compelled Murphy to throw away. Then a shot was sent in, and in reality was a goal, but Murphy put back his hand and scooped the ball out before it touched the net. The Club claimed a goal but the Artillery disputed it. The referee then ordered both teams to line up twelve yards from the goal, giving a penalty in favour of the Club. The goalkeeper alone was left to defend his citadel, standing six yards from under the bar, with the ball planted six yards further back in a direct line to him. Noble took the kick and put in a lightning shot, which gave Murphy no chance whatever. A terrific shout rent the air at this success, and the Club players performed gymnastic evolutions. The second ten minutes was warmly contested and the Club experienced hard lines in not being able out of the many attempts to put the ball through. That, of course, speaks well for the excellent goalkeeping of Murphy. At the call of extra time the score stood:

Hongkong 1 goal.
Artillery nil

the first-named thereby securing the much-coveted trophy.

Gold medals were presented to the players of the winning team by Miss Blake. Mr. Looker, the captain, presented Miss Blake with a superb bouquet in a silver holder, from which streamed ribbons of the Club's colours; and during the Captain's remarks he said he hoped Miss Blake would always keep the silver holder in remembrance of the occasion. The medal is gold, about the size of a 20-cent piece, artistically edged in filigree; one side contains the inscription "Hongkong Challenge Shield, 1898-9," and the other side is blank, upon which the winner may have his name engraven.

The Club players richly deserve the rewards, for they have played well all through the competition, as well as creating a record for Hongkong, having prevented a single goal being scored against them, whilst they have notched twelve—4 by Noble, 3 by Lowe, 2 by Danby, and one each by Hancock, Mayson, and Looker.

In the final game Danby and Lowe, the latter having a bandaged knee, played exceedingly well on the wing, and Green was a good substitute in the place of Mayson, who has been confined in hospital during the week with fever. Mayson played in all the games except the final and will receive a medal. C. Kew played a better game than we have ever seen him play; his "robbing" the ball and head work were a treat to witness. Considering the wet state of the ball Pinckney and Anton were sure kicks. Frost, of the Artillery, who is a capital player, was well watched and failed to shine as he usually does. Both Bells played with judgment, as also did Lt. Greene and Kelly; in fact all the men played a sterling game.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

There were 21 entries for the Spoon Competition on Saturday. Rain unfortunately interfered with good shooting, several competitors retiring at the 500 yards range. Scores:—

	200	500	600	H'cap.	Total
C. I. M. Wallace, R.E.*	29	30	31	—	90
W. Stackwood *	32	27	24	6	89
Corpl. Carlyle *	31	29	28	—	88
A. Read *	33	32	20	2	87
F. Beck *	30	23	21	6	85
A. Blair, R.E.	32	31	21	—	84
Pte. Pond, W.F.	31	23	23	—	77

* Winners of spoons.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

TATHONG ROCK RACE, 26TH MARCH.

This race was for two valuable cups, a first prize presented by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson and a second by Mr. M. W. Slade. The weather was anything but satisfactory, being a succession of light winds and calms from start to finish, and the race for the second prize was really from the Cosmopolitan Dock buoy to Kowloon Point, there being at the buoy three boats well within their time of the scratch boat.

The course was from Kowloon Point, round Tathong Rock, off Sheko, Cosmopolitan Dock buoy, and back to Kowloon Point. The following was the handicap:—

Erica	...	...	...	scratch allows	min.	sec.
Chanticleer	...	...	...	1	8	
Maid Marian	...	...	...	1	16	
Bonito	...	...	...	1	56	
Tamar's Cutter	...	...	...	2	0	
Phoebe	...	...	...	3	40	
Sybil	...	...	...	4	10	
Active	...	...	...	6	40	
Meteor	...	...	...	7	54	
Ladybird	...	...	...	8	56	
Dart	...	...	...	11	42	
Payne	...	...	...	11	44	
Princess	...	...	...	11	54	
Madge	...	...	...	35	0	

The starting gun went at 11.15, all the boats being anchored near the line. The Chanticleer was the first to go to the front, but off Quarry Bay, Phoebe got a steady but light breeze which carried her into first place, but lost it again off Saukiwan. After getting through the Lyeemun Pass the leaders were Chanticleer, Maid Marian, Phoebe, and Erica, with Payne and Sybil close at hand. A north-east puff carried the two last well up to windward and at one time they looked rather in luck, but the wind failed them again before the Tathong Rock was reached. The Chanticleer rounded the Rock first at 1.13, then Maid Marian at 1.17, and Erica at 1.18, followed two minutes later by Bonito, Phoebe, Active, Sybil, Payne, Meteor, Princess, Ladybird, and Dart in a cluster, Tamar's Cutter and Madge being far in the rear. It was a beat back to the Lyeemun, during which Maid Marian went into first place, which she kept to the finish, and Erica, Phoebe, Meteor, and Active closed up on the Chanticleer. Shortly after getting through the pass the wind got steadier for the above five boats and they reached right away to the Cosmopolitan Dock buoy without a tack. The boats were timed passing the Police Pier on the way down as follows:—

Maid Marian	...	3	21	15
Erica	...	3	35	16
Chanticleer	...	3	36	25
Phoebe	...	3	36	33
Meteor	...	3	38	27
Active	...	3	39	45
Bonito	...	3	44	56
Sybil	...	3	52	0
Princess	...	3	52	39
Payne	...	3	53	21
Tamar's Cutter	...	3	54	14
Ladybird	...	4	0	46
Dart	...	4	1	13
Madge	...	4	41	40

At the Cosmopolitan Dock Buoy Erica, Chanticleer, and Phoebe rounded within two minutes, Meteor being within her time of the three, but in the run back to the finish Erica ran right away and finished an easy second, the wind getting very light. The times at the finish were:—

Maid Marian	4	14	21	Mr. Wilkinson's cup
Erica	4	26	59	Mr. Slade's cup
Chanticleer	4	56	45	
Meteor	4	58	26	
Active	5	11	37	
Sybil	5	27	52	
Ladybird	5	28	53	
Payne	5	33	5	
Princess	5	34	22	

The rest gave up.

The prizes were presented to the steersmen of the winning boats after the race by Mrs. Hastings.

MOUNT MACDONALD MINES.

The *Sydney Daily Telegraph* of February 25, in a review of the mining industry for the year 1898, makes the following reference to the Mount Macdonald Mines, in which Hongkong is interested:—

Mount Macdonald, which is situated about a mile a half from Milburn Creek, is a bustling gold-mining camp, but we do not hear much about it in Sydney. The mines now at work are owned solely by Chinese companies, and remarkable pluck and perseverance they have displayed. They have been identified with the field for many years, and it is generally supposed that in mine purchases and mine expenditure they have spent not less than £125,000. On this so far they have received no return, but one company now appears to be on the right road towards success. Should it be achieved, it will be most thoroughly deserved. Without doubt had it not been for the enterprise of the Hongkongites the field would have been deserted long ago. It is a camp of many peculiarities. The prevailing strata are highly indurated sedimentary rocks. Nothing tougher or more costly to work is to be found in the colony. The lodes are very bunchy and patchy. A peculiar feature of them is that if a lode 3 ft. wide carries 12 dwt. per ton, the same lode, when it widens out to 9 ft., carries only the same quantity of gold as the three feet, or about 4 dwt. per ton. It is not until recently that this peculiarity has been specially noted, but now the managers are thoroughly satisfied as to its existence, and they are able to regulate their operations accordingly. The principal mine is the Oliver's Freshold, formerly known as the Eureka. Here extensive operations are being carried on. The first results were excellent, but the returns gradually lowered until they got far below the paying point; this was when the peculiarity above referred to was not understood. Latterly, however, the results have been improving, and from the ore now actually in sight a succession of payable yields may be expected. During the year the company crushed 6,884 tons for 2,251 oz., of the value of £8,464 8s. 5d. The average was thus slightly over 7 dwt. per ton. As showing the improvement, the returns for October, November, and December averaged nearly 8½ dwt., while the January (1899) yield was nearly 19 dwt. per ton. The cost of mining and crushing is very heavy, owing to the hardness of the rock and to the system of grinding in Watson and Deany pans, which do very effective work; but an average of 10 dwt. per ton will leave a fair margin of profit. The company conjointly with the Queen Mines Company, adjoining, are about to erect an eight-drill air-compressing plant, which has been ordered from Thompson and Co., of Castlemaine. Within two or three months this plant will be at work, and it ought to show a substantial reduction in the mining costs. Complete tests are also about to be made to determine whether or not the adoption of the cyanide process will reduce the cost of treatment. There was great excitement at the Mount a month ago when it was reported that rich stone had been struck in the Queen mine at a depth of 400 ft., the deepest workings on the field. The rich discovery was merely a patch, which did not extend upwards or downwards, or lengthwise. The lode where intersected was very wide, and mullocky. The manager now reports that in both ends of the level the ore is consolidating, and that better prospects are obtainable. There is a strong probability that in the north drive a continuation of the rich shoot worked from the surface to about the 250 ft. will be met with. The importance of the discovery of a payable body of ore at this depth could not be exaggerated. The Great Eastern and Caledonian Company have erected a splendid 20-head stamper battery, which was set in motion about a month ago. The mill was started on a large heap of ore which was known to be of comparatively low grade, but, according to rumour, the yield was far below expectations. The battery is now running on stone from which good returns are expected. The company cannot have spent less than from £25,000 to £30,000 to date, and it is to be sincerely hoped that the disappointment of the first crushing will be more than compensated for by the result of the second crushing. It is to be said, to the credit of

these Hongkong companies, that their enterprise has no parallel in this colony. Were the business of English and foreign companies generally conducted on the same lines, there would be no necessity for deputations to wait on the Minister to advocate reform of the law or relaxation of the rules. Mining would "hum" to everybody's advantage. Why? Because the mines would be the primary and every subsequent consideration—not first robbers' and sharking jobbers' "most capacious maws."

GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the above Company was held at the offices of the Company, No. 7, Queen's Road Central, on 28th March when a resolution for the purpose of increasing the capital of the company was submitted. Mr. R. C. Wilcox presided and there were also present Messrs. G. C. Cox, A. Denison, R. Abesser (directors), L. Lambotte (secretary), E. S. Joseph, E. Georg, S. A. Joseph, Elias, A. W. Best, J. D. Barros, J. C. Remedios, C. Schweucke, J. M. Michael, G. Graca, C. Moir, D. Warren Smith, G. J. Chapman, G. Forstmann, and Ip Chew.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen,—This meeting has been summoned for a special purpose, one which your directors had hoped might not prove necessary, viz., to sanction the raising of fresh capital. It is no new experience in the history of mining companies to require additional capital; but this company had, as we thought, arrived within sight of payable crushings. After several delays the battery had been got into working order, and we had more than a thousand tons of quartz at grass ready for crushing. But either an enemy lurked in ambush, or we have suffered from want of experience on the part of our managers, for it seems very clear the result of the crushings did not represent the value of the ore. The product of the crushing from the Great Eastern mine was almost nil; as our manager remarks in one of his letters, almost any stuff at Mount Macdonald would if crushed pan out better than that. The quartz from the Zulu Mine, which in trial crushings had yielded over an ounce per ton, was also most disappointing, and we do not believe for one moment that the result was a fair one. Mr. Georg has, in the opinion of the Board, committed an error of judgment in dismissing Mr. Cash. The old saw about the unwisdom of swapping horses when you are crossing a stream applies in this case. We had certainly come very near to the brink of our river, and, whatever Mr. Cash's failings may have been, Mr. Georg would have done better to have struggled on with him until the battery could be got into working order. Moreover, Mr. Cash was an experienced miner, knew the field thoroughly, and with tactful management might at least have been used for the time to supply the requisite technical knowledge. Mr. Georg was, however, in charge, and it is only fair to say he did not use his powers until after more than once warning Mr. Cash of his intention. It might have been better had he referred the matter to the Board for instructions, for that would have given him time to think over the expedience of the step contemplated; but he dismissed Mr. Cash first and reported the fact afterwards. I am quite sure that this course was taken in what Mr. Georg believed to be the interests of the Company, but all the same the Board think that it was a mistake. Mr. Georg has taken too much on his own shoulders. He has the will and the energy, but he is rather impulsive, and there is a limit to the powers of one man, especially if, when managing a mine, he is not a practical miner. We have telegraphed instructions to Mr. Georg to engage an expert for the battery, and we shall not sanction any further crushing until we are assured that the battery is under competent management. I have intimated that there was some reason to suspect that there had been foul play in connection with the crushings. Mr. Georg says, in recent advices, that chemicals must have been employed, as the copper plates were half destroyed by chemicals. There are

at least a dozen different ways of spoiling a crushing, so that it would not be difficult for a man with a grudge against the manager to put what he might call a spoke in his wheel. That such things are not uncommon on the Australian gold fields the following letter in the *Sydney Morning Herald* from the Secretary of the Gallymont Gold Fields Limited, will show:—"We note under the heading of 'Mining News' from your correspondent at Mandurama, that it is stated the stoppage of work at Gallymont mines is a serious blow to the district, and that nearly 100 people are out of employment. We beg to inform you that the works at the mine are not stopped, although for a few days operations were suspended underground in consequence of an attempt having been made by certain parties to wreck the mine for the purpose of obtaining the same on tribute. One of the accomplices has made a statutory declaration to that effect." We have, I fear, been made the victims of some nefarious plot, the design being possibly to make the shareholders dissatisfied with Mr. Georg. However that may be, it is not our intention, gentlemen, to throw up the sponge because, at a critical moment, we have had a slice of ill luck dealt out to us, possibly by unfriendly hands. We must go warily in the future but we shall push on with the work of developing the mines. To do that however, and to pay our debts, we must have fresh capital. We owed at the mines, according to our last advices, £1,001. 11s. 3d., of which £500 was for battery plant, in excess of the estimates sent. We have remitted £300, and we estimate that gold has been sold to the value of £500, making in all £800, but since then working expenses have probably been £500, so that we are most likely some £700 still in debt. To meet this we have a little over one thousand dollars in hand here, and it is therefore imperatively necessary that the manager should be placed in a position to carry on without undue delay. Owing to the scarcity of water we shall perhaps not be able to proceed with the crushing at once, but in the meantime we shall take the opportunity of filling up our paddocks with ore ready for the battery after the next rains, which appear to be rather later than usual in New South Wales. Well, gentlemen, I do not know that I have anything more to say to you before proposing the resolution I hold in my hand, but I wish to mention, in order to anticipate any objection to its terms some of you might otherwise be disposed to make, that though it is proposed to take power to issue 16,000 more ordinary shares it is not our intention now to ask for subscriptions for those shares. The 70,000 preference shares are all we intend to issue now, and we trust these will be subscribed for by the existing shareholders. With this explanation I beg to move the following special Resolution:—

"1.—That the Capital of the Company be increased to \$500,000 by the creation of 16,000 ordinary shares of \$5.00 each, and 70,000 Preference shares of \$1.00 each; such shares to be issued at the discretion of the Directors, provided that they shall be offered in the first instance to the existing shareholders in proportion to the amount of the capital held by them at the time of such issue.

"2.—The holders of the said Preference Shares shall be entitled to a cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of 12 per cent per annum.

"3.—Whenever the profits of the Company in respect of any year shall be more than sufficient to pay the preferential dividend for such year at the rate of 12 per cent per annum on the Ordinary Shares, the holders of the said Preference Shares shall be entitled to participate in the surplus *pari passu* with the holders of the other shares.

"4.—In the event of the winding up of the Company, the holders of the said Preference Shares shall be entitled to have the surplus assets of the Company applied in the first case in repaying to them the amount paid up on the Preference Shares held by them respectively, and the residue of such surplus assets shall belong to and be divided among the ordinary shareholders of the Company, and if there shall be more than sufficient to pay the amount paid up on the Ordinary Shares, such surplus (if any) shall be divisible between the holders of the Preference Shares and the Ordinary Shares rateably."

Mr. GEORG seconded.

Mr. BEST—I should like to ask one or two questions. I understand we have six shafts, have we not?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes.

Mr. BEST—On how many different lodes?

The CHAIRMAN—Two.

Mr. BEST thought that looking at the plan they might have another lode.

Answering Mr. Best The CHAIRMAN said the distance between the "Rise and Shine" and the "Bank of England" was 264 feet.

Mr. BEST thought they ought to connect the two. What was the distance between the Zulu and the Rise and Shine?

The CHAIRMAN—About 400 feet.

Mr. BEST said that that would not be a great deal to connect. He should strongly object to sinking deep shafts until they proved the lodes at present levels.

The CHAIRMAN—Well, we are not sinking more deep shafts at present.

Mr. BEST—There is another thing I should like to ask about. Have you heard anything more about these rich concentrates? What has become of them?

The CHAIRMAN—Mr. Georg is trying to sell them now; I do not know what they will realise.

Mr. BEST contended that the lodes should be proved at present working levels and at surface if possible, before sinking deeper, and if on same line of reef work from each shaft inwards towards the other on line of reef, not outwards. On no account should they sink new shafts or continue present ones to lower levels till the present working levels had been thoroughly proved. Sinking shafts was very costly and brought in no returns, whereas driving levels on line of reef was not only less costly but brought in gold to pay for working expenses during this development. There were not wanting examples of the practice of spending all a company's funds in sinking deep shafts only for the benefit of successors.

The CHAIRMAN—That we quite agree with.

Mr. BEST, in the course of some further remarks, said they could not expect more than an average of half-an-ounce to the ton, but that would pay well if they got plenty of it. Better results would be got at greater depth after working levels had been well proved. He did not think Mr. Georg should have so free a hand as he had had in the past. He thought he should work according to the directors' instructions. He thought Mr. Georg had been making an ass of himself and a fool of the shareholders and directors. (Hear, hear.) He did not think they had had a satisfactory explanation of the suggested foul play.

The CHAIRMAN—We have not received a full explanation up to the present. The last letter we received from Mr. Georg is not sufficient explanation. He does not seem to know himself. When he knows more perhaps he will give us fuller information. At all events we shall write him for very full particulars on the subject.

Mr. BEST—That is satisfactory, but it seems to me we have not had a satisfactory explanation from Mr. Georg with regard to the telegram mentioning pounds instead of ounces.

The CHAIRMAN—In the mining code there is no word for 18 ounces and he took it for granted that by using the word which really meant pounds we should read it as ounces. That is Mr. Georg's explanation.

Mr. BEST—in future what we want to know is facts. We do not want a lot of twaddle about what Mr. Georg thinks. We want facts about what he really finds.

Mr. CHAPMAN said he should like to know whether it was possible to have two managers. He understood they proposed to retain the services of the present manager and supplement him by a practical man.

The CHAIRMAN said they had a mining manager now, Mr. Webb. Mr. Georg was the general manager and looked after the accounts and the expenditure generally; but what they wanted now was an expert for the battery, because it seemed to him that it was there they had come to grief. It had been the result of ignorance or foul play. Which they could not tell.

Mr. CHAPMAN proposed the following resolution:—"That having regard to the results obtained under the present manager at the mines the shareholders are of opinion that he should

be replaced by a fully qualified manager before further funds are expended, the remuneration to the new manager to be based on a moderate fixed salary and share of profits."

Mr. MOIR, in seconding, said Mr. Georg had had an opportunity of distinguishing himself—he had been with them 18 months—and they ought to give another man an opportunity of doing something.

Mr. GEORG said it would be manifestly unfair at the present juncture to dismiss his brother and replace him by another man. He had worked hard for the company, and had been living a life which very few there would like to live—in a shanty amongst the miners. His brother was not a practical miner, but he had worked honestly for them, and to replace him by another man would be foolish. His idea was that they should get an expert, but that the chief management should be left in his brother's hands.

Mr. WARREN SMITH thought that it would be unwise to make a change. Mr. Georg's character was known and because all his promises had not been fulfilled it did not follow that he would repeat his old or make new serious mistakes; while the risk would be much greater in engaging a new man. They had only to call to recollection the history of other Hongkong Mining Companies, several of which had had serious misfortunes solely through having a succession of careless or incompetent managers, and the experience of this company would probably be the same if a change were made. They would really know nothing of any new man that might be engaged. Mr. Georg undoubtedly had the interest of the company at heart, worked hard, and was thoroughly trustworthy. He ought to be given a chance of retrieving his mistakes.

Mr. BEST thought it would be only fair to give Mr. Georg another chance.

The CHAIRMAN said he would remind shareholders that Mr. Georg had a large interest in the mine, he had worked very hard, and he thought it would be hardly fair not to give him another chance. He thought it would be very difficult to get a man who would look after things as closely as Mr. Georg had done in the way of expenditure. He thought that if they got a battery expert and gave Mr. Georg precise instructions and limited him as to what he had to do, and made him furnish reports to show that he had adhered to those instructions, he could do better in the future.

Mr. CHAPMAN thought Mr. Georg had had quite sufficient opportunity. He had had a fair trial, and he thought it was now time to change. There was no indication they were going to have any improved results. If Mr. Georg was going to run the whole show and wander about as he liked sinking shafts—because that was practically what had happened—they would never be any better off.

The CHAIRMAN pointed out that there had been a great deal of development work done. They were now in a position to get a great deal of ore and bring it to the surface.

Mr. CHAPMAN—But we get nothing out of it, that is the difficulty.

The CHAIRMAN said it was true they had got very little so far, but they hoped to do better when they got an expert to superintend work in the battery.

Mr. CHAPMAN said that Mr. Georg seemed to have run foul of the whole of the staff. He considered he had made enemies all round him, and he thought it would be advisable to change.

The CHAIRMAN—I hope he will live this down and make himself popular.

Mr. GEORG said his brother had made enemies through his honesty and mentioned that in connection with some machinery for the mines his brother was offered £400 or £500 commission by a certain firm, but he refused it.

Mr. WARREN SMITH remarked that it was to be presumed Mr. Georg would learn by experience and do better; a new man would probably make new mistakes and the shareholders would have to bear the cost of his learning by experience.

Mr. CHAPMAN did not think their mines should be a training school for managers. They were paying for an expert manager, and they ought to have one. There were plenty of good men in the world.

Mr. E. S. JOSEPH said the question was, had Mr. Georg proved himself competent or not. If not he should be dealt with accordingly.

Mr. COX said several experts had visited the Mount Macdonald mining field, the results of whose investigations had appeared in the Australian papers. These experts had always spoken very highly of Mr. Georg's work.

Mr. J. R. MICHAEL said that no doubt Mr. Georg had worked very hard, and if the mine had not been successful it was not his fault. He might have made mistakes, but not sufficient to warrant his dismissal.

Some discussion took place on the point as to whether Mr. Chapman's proposition was in order, seeing that the meeting had been called for a special purpose, and the CHAIRMAN ultimately ruled that it was not in order.

The original resolution was then put and carried without dissent.

The CHAIRMAN announced that a confirmatory meeting would be held in about a fortnight.

This was all the business.

THE SHANGHAI AND HONGKONG WHARF COMPANY, LIMITED.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of this company was held at the offices of the General Agents, Messrs Jardine, Matheson and Co., Shanghai, on the 21st March under the presidency of Mr. E. F. Alford. There were also present, Messrs A. McLeod, E. A. Probst, A. Korff, E. A. Hewett (Directors), Cruickshank, C. E. Anton, Duncan Glass, H. R. H. Burder, Gresson, J. M. Young, E. Jenner Hogg, Reynell, Spooner, R. Macgregor, Pemberton, E. U. Smith, R. Inglis, E. H. Davis, G. Thorne, and Camera.

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, the Report having been in your hands for some days, I propose to follow the usual precedent and take it as read. The result of the year's working I feel sure you will agree with me is highly satisfactory. In addressing you at the general meeting a year ago I referred to the decision of your Directors to increase the tariff from 1st April, and expressed a belief that, notwithstanding the advance in the price of labour, an increase in our earning power would be apparent. The beneficial result of that step, taken for the protection of your interests, is shown in the accounts before you, there being a balance at credit of 1898 working account of Tls. 268,555 against Tls. 19,819 for 1897, or a net increase of Tls. 68,706. Confirmation of the necessity for the increase of tariff is found in the figures appertaining to working expenses for 1898. The total of these amounts to Tls. 379,022 against Tls. 330,739 for 1897, so that without the protective measure I am now discussing, the return which shareholders may reasonably expect to receive, based on the value of their property, would undoubtedly have been interfered with by the enhanced cost of working. After payment of an interim dividend of three taels per share we are in a position to propose the payment of a further nine taels per share, thus making twelve taels for the year, to place Tls. 25,000 to repairs account, and carry forward Tls. 22,713.47 to credit of profit and loss Account for next year. With over 100 godowns, besides wharves and pontoons, to maintain in a state of efficiency, the item of repairs must always be an important one; therefore I feel sure that our action in making provision for the up-keep of your property will meet with your approval. I am pleased to be able to say that the saving on dredging operations still continues, our expenditure under this head being about half that of the preceding year. At the same time it must be borne in mind that the shore to the eastward of the Ningpo Wharf is extending upwards, and considerable dredging may have to be done there in the future, also that in the next few years extensive repairs will be necessary at the Pootung Wharf, hence your Director's recommendation to carry forward a portion of our profits to enable such requirement to be met. The amount of Tls. 20,000 transferred from 1897 earnings to repairs account has been absorbed with the exception of Tls. 425.22 which appears in the balance sheet now presented. Property account has been increased by the sum of Tls. 86,594 expended during 1898 on new works and build-

ings and in consideration of the value of its book value I think that no exception can be taken to this method of treating the addition. Our present financial position does not call for any special remark. The balance due to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., at the present moment is £11,36,000 to which will have to be added £11,35,900 for the proposed dividend if approved of by you. Against this liability of course will be set the incoming receipts for current business, and the indebtedness gradually reduced. The new year has opened prosperously and there is every reason to expect a continuance of this improvement. It does not occur to me to add anything to the foregoing remarks, but, before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any enquiries that shareholders may desire to make.

Mr. E. Jenner Hogg—What you have said, Mr. Chairman, about the satisfactoriness of the accounts I think cannot be disputed for a single moment, and the thanks of the shareholders must be due to those who have contributed to such an extremely good result. My object in rising for a moment is to put a question as to one of the properties of the Company which perhaps is worthy of some further notice than has been given to it. All those who have observed the spreading of the Chinese Bund on this side of the river must have been struck with the so-to-speak unsatisfactory state, the almost inutility, comparatively, of the Tungkadoo property, which is on the other side of the river. The prosperity which has dawned upon this side of the river must, I should suppose, have some effect upon the opposite side and the property that I speak of, I think is somewhere about 200 mow.

The Chairman—236 mow.

Mr. Jenner Hogg—Well, that is a very substantial piece of land, and I must say I think it is hardly utilised. The property, I think, must have cost the Company, when it was taken over from the Pootung Company, something like £11,50,000, but now it must be worth vastly more intrinsically. But whether it is worth that intrinsically from the use that is made of it is another question, and I think it will be gratifying to know what is its position, whether it cannot be better utilised and what prospects there are of this being done.

The Chairman—Mr. Hogg's enquiry is a very natural one, and I am very glad to reply to it. It is quite true that the earning power of this particular property is not satisfactory, but taken altogether with Pootung, it is perfectly satisfactory. The earnings of the property taken over when the amalgamation with the old Company took place amount to £11,168,000 which would give nearly 12 per cent on the two properties. Mr. Hogg is quite right in regard to Tungkadoo not being sufficiently utilised, but we have not lost sight of the fact and we look upon Tungkadoo as part of the outlying suburbs which might improve. At the present moment it is difficult to see how we can improve it because there are certain difficulties attached to the fact that it is not within the harbour limits. I have only to say we are quite aware of the position, and if it is possible to make a better earning power from it as I hope it may be, as the prosperity on the other side of the river increases, we shall do all we can to deal with that possibility. I don't know that I can add any more.

Mr. Jenner Hogg—Is there any particular meaning in mentioning that it is not within the harbour limits? Has that a strong bearing?

The Chairman—Yes, it has this bearing. The Customs don't give a general permit to discharge up there and no doubt many people would not approve of our storing their goods there. We can only hope that, in the course of time, this penalisation by the Customs may be removed, as it may if we, as foreigners, get any control over the other side of the river, and I hope that time will come. (Hear, hear.) I now beg to move that the report and accounts as presented to you be adopted and passed.

Mr. McLeod—I have very much pleasure in seconding.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. Pemberton—I beg to propose the re-election of Messrs. A. McLeod, J. L. Scott, E. A. Hewett, E. A. Probst, and A. Korff as Directors for the ensuing year in addition to the

senior representative of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.

Mr. C. Thorne seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. Hogg—I beg to propose the re-appointment of Messrs. C. W. Wrightson and G. R. Wingrove as auditors of the company for the ensuing year.

Mr. R. McGregor seconded, and it was adopted.

The Chairman—I have to move that a final dividend at the rate of £11.9 per share be now declared.

Mr. Probst seconded, and this was unanimously carried.

The Chairman—The warrants will be ready to-morrow. I have only further to thank you for your attendance and to hope that the Company will continue to prosper.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, carried on the proposition of Mr. Hogg, concluded the proceedings.—N. C. Daily News.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE DEMAND FOR A BELGIAN CONCESSION AT HANKOW.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—It seems to me that the British policy of conserving the failing Chinese Empire is beginning to bear its natural fruit. Had Great Britain decided on a bold policy even one year ago she might have dictated the division of China to suit herself. Now her policy of propping up a broken-down and reprobate empire is tending to the assemblage of a lot of claimants to the various portions of that empire when the inevitable disruption takes place, who only one year back would never have thought of putting forward claims to be considered at the division of territory belonging to the dying Empire of the East.

When the British took over the administration of India the resources of Great Britain were not one tenth of what they are at the present time, yet we find our greatest statesmen now proclaiming the impossibility of her undertaking the control of the Yangtze Valley. Surely Britain must be on the wane if what they aver be true. It is not true, however.

Would any British statesman now dare to declare that Britain must relinquish India as she could not hold it? I think that Britishers of two generations hence will laugh to scorn the idea that they are unable to hold not only India but half of what is at present China. Far from weakening the British Empire it will add greatly to its capability of holding the whole of southern Asia, for it will hold its Asiatic Empire as the present Manchu Dynasty has held its way, by the transference of troops raised in one province to another where they are strangers. Chinese troops will be found serving in India and Africa and Indian and African troops in China. It seems to me that a division of China between Russia, England, France, and Germany would be a more natural arrangement, and if America and Japan put forward claims they would naturally have to be considered. America's claim might best be satisfied by an Anglo-American control of the central portions of China as it now works in the Anglo-American settlement at Shanghai.

We now have Italy claiming a base for expansion, under the name of a naval station Austria must follow with a similar claim, and as Britain and Germany have supported Italy they must naturally support an Austrian claim. There is much to be said in favour of the claims of these two powers, for both have growing interests in China and are great nations able to send men and ships out to control and maintain order in the spheres they may obtain. That Germany should desire to see her allies in force in the Far East is but natural, as, in case of a conflict, a blow dealt at Russia or France here must paralyze their action in Europe to a great extent. This would particularly be the case as regards Russia. Germany and Austria could never afford to allow Russia to absorb North China and use it as a recruiting field to raise troops to be conveyed by rail to Europe and

hurled at either Austria or Germany or used for the conquest of Asia Minor, or Turkey in Europe and the absorption of the Turkish Empire.

When, however, it comes to twopenny-halfpenny states like Belgium putting forward claims to settlements out here it is surely time to realize that they are only acting as cat spaws to greater powers. They cannot hold their claims and must seek the protection of others; then others protect them and take over their rights. A Belgian sphere means a French sphere.

WIDEAWAKE.

Hongkong, 24th March, 1899.

FRENCH ACTIVITY IN YUNNAN.

From the *Courrier d'Haiphong* we learn that a portion of the commission appointed to examine on the spot the project for a railway from Laokay to Yunnan arrived at Haiphong by the last mail. General Pennequin, the head of the commission, is expected by the Laos. It is stated that M. Doumer, the Governor-General of Indo-China, is also about to make a rapid visit to Yunnan. In connection with French activity in this sphere it may likewise be mentioned that attention has of late been drawn to the dependence of France on English cables for the means of telegraphic communication with Indo-China and to the assumed danger to French interests which this implies. In view of the impossibility of laying a French cable, owing to the great cost and the few landing places at which such a cable could touch, it has been suggested that communication by land lines should be established, with the assistance of "our ally Russia." A scheme has therefore been advanced for the carrying of a line from Indo-China through Tibet to connect with the Russian line in Siberia. The first portion of such a line would of course have to pass through Yunnan. As an argument in favour of the scheme we are reminded that "China last year undertook to place the postal and telegraphic service of the empire under the direction of French agents."

PROGRESS AT KIAOCHAU.

A Government Council has been formed at Kiaochow, consisting of the Officer Commanding the Troops, the Civil Commissioner, the Intendant, the Principal Medical Officer, the Director of Public Works, and the Harbour Master. Three civilians are also to be nominated, one by the Governor, one by the firms entered in the commercial register, and one by the landowners, to act as intermediaries between the Government and the community in matters affecting civilian interests; their advice will be taken before new orders are issued or existing ones amended. The election of the civilian representatives will take place annually, in March. In the *Tsintau* correspondence of the *Ostasiatische Lloyd* it is stated that each week brings new colonists, and all the principal German firms, who at first were sceptical as to the prospects of the new settlement, are now acquiring land for the erection of offices. In the week prior to the date of the letter, 16th March, five lots in the European quarter were sold, measuring in all 7,51 square meters, and the price realised was \$3,587 Mexican, giving an average of 46 cents per metre (4 cents per foot). In Tapatau, the Chinese quarter, there have been sold since the beginning of the year 1,373 square metres realising \$1,139, or an average of 83 cents (8 cents per foot). It is mentioned that the telephone is being introduced, and also that a mountaineering club has been formed to explore the beauties of the surrounding country, which is referred to as the "Chinese Switzerland."

H.I.G.M. cruiser *Deutschland* arrived at Nagasaki on the 22nd March from Kiaochow. She belongs to the second division of the squadron in these waters and carries the flag of H.R.H. Prince Henry, lately promoted to the rank of Vice-Admiral. The Prince remains at Kiaochow with Princess Henry, who returns to Germany in April next. Captain Müller is the commander of the *Deutschland*, which will stay at Nagasaki several days and will go into dock to be cleaned.—Nagasaki Press.

COLLISION AT WOOSUNG.

THE "TAMSUI" BEACHED.

Shanghai, 23rd March.

The China Navigation Co.'s steamer *Tamsui*, Capt. Brown, which left here this morning for Newchwang, was run into by the Norwegian steamer *Hermes* at Woosung.

The collision occurred at 1.50 p.m. off Gough Island, the *Hermes* steaming towards Shanghai at the time and flying light. When a collision appeared to be imminent the *Hermes* went full speed astern, but too late to avoid the crash. The *Tamsui* received a terrific blow on the port beam and while she was apparently not injured very much above the water line, there was a considerable rent below, and it is believed several plates have been started. On the wells being sounded it was found necessary to beach her and she now lies high and dry on Gough Island. Lighters are now at work, the cargo being discharged as rapidly as possible.

The *Hermes* was badly injured, but all above water. Her bows were stove in, rails and stanchions carried away. She remains down-river.—*Mercury*.

ANOTHER MAHOMEDAN REBELLION.

The *N. C. Daily News* publishes the following special telegrams:—

Peking, 23rd March.

News has been received from Lanchow, capital of Kansu province, that the Mahomedan communities to the north west of that city—known as the Salah Mussulmans, the most savage and bigoted of that faith in the Chinese dominions—have rebelled. The green sacred Banner of the Prophet has been unfurled by their Akhoon, or Chief Mulla, and the word passed to all the Mahomedan townships in Kansu, Shensi, and Chinese Turkestan to wage war to the knife upon the Buddhist unbelievers. A telegram from Governor Jao of Chinese Turkestan, whose capital is Urumtsi, has also been received reporting considerable unrest among the Tunganis (Chinese Mahomedans) and Tarantchis in Kuldja, and Turkis in Kashgaria, owing to widespread but confused rumours of the rising of the Prophet's green Banner among the Salah Mahomedans and their supposed victories over the Imperial troops sent against them.

Peking, 24th March.

A telegraphic dispatch from Viceroy T'ao of Kansu has been received, reporting the massacre of over thirty Chinese Buddhists by rebel Salah Mahomedans and that a general conflagration is feared with the return of warm weather in April or May, when communication becomes easier, unless a strong army is assembled in Kansu. The Viceroy complained of the withdrawal to Peking of Generals Tung Fu-hsiang and Chang-Chun with their best troops whose sanguinary battles for the past 20 years against the Mahomedans have made them greatly feared by the latter, not only in Kansu but also in Chinese Turkestan, and that, in consequence, the whole Northwest is practically defenceless and at the mercy of the Mahomedans if they should unite together and rebel. Unless substantial help in men and good officers be sent to Kansu, Viceroy T'ao refuses to accept the responsibility should trouble arise.

HONGKONG.

There were 2,237 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 196 were Europeans.

A *Gazette* Extraordinary was published on 29th March containing a notification declaring Taiwanfoo and Auping infected ports.

A proclamation is published in the *Gazette* extending the prohibition of the export of arms for a further period of four months from the 28th March.

The Douglas Company's new steamer *Haiching*, Captain Hodgins, has come out of dock, and leaves on her first trip to Amoy and Tamsui to-day. On the voyage out a defect developed in the machinery, by which the vessel was delayed at Aden for temporary repairs, and on her arrival here she went into dock. The defect has now been made good and we wish the vessel a prosperous career.

H.E. the Governor has given his assent, in the name and on behalf of the Queen, to the Ordinance to amend the law relating to Solicitors of the Supreme Court.

A lot of Crown land on Wanchai Road was sold on Tuesday by public auction. The lot contains 5,795 square ft. and was bought by Mr. P. H. Murray for \$2,450.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that H.E. Sir Henry Archibald Blake, G.C.M.G., has been pleased to accept the position of Honorary Colonel of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps.

The return of the cases of communicable diseases notified as occurring last week is as follows:—Bubonic plague, 3 cases, 3 deaths; enteric fever, 3 cases, 2 deaths; smallpox, 1 case, 1 death.

A lot of Crown land near Blackhead's Point, Kowloon, was sold on Monday by public auction. The lot contains 33,500 square feet and realized \$7,000, the purchaser being Mr. A. S. Gomez.

Messrs. Lamke and Rogge inform us that Messrs. Wm. G. Hale & Co., of Saigon, advise them by telegram that quarantine for nine days, including passage, is being enforced on vessels arriving from Hongkong.

The appointment of Mr. A. W. Brewin to be Acting Registrar-General in addition to his duties as Inspector of Schools is gazetted. The notification might be used by Mr. Brewin in his school examinations as a parsing exercise.

At the Magistracy on 28th March the office boy at Kowloon Docks, charged with stealing a registered letter was, again brought before Mr. Sercombe T. Smith, who did not think the evidence was conclusive and accordingly discharged him.

A lot of Crown land on Macdonnell Road, Kowloon, at the back of the Godowns, was sold on Friday by public auction. The lot, which contains 18,645 square ft., realised \$14,010, the purchaser being Mr. Edward Osborne, for the Wharf and Godown Co.

In consequence of the promotion of Mr. C. W. Duggan to the post of Secretary of the Sanitary Board, the designation of Paymaster of Police has been changed to First Clerk and Accountant, to which post Mr. George Ng Fuk Shang has been appointed.

On 24th March the Hon. F. H. May, Dr. J. M. Atkinson, and the Hon. R. D. Ormsby visited the Kowloon extension for the purpose of selecting suitable sites for the accommodation of the police and other officials who will be engaged in the administration of the new territory.

Owing to the detention of the M. M. steamer *Ernest Simons* in Shanghai to effect some repairs to her machinery there will be an exchange of voyages between the Company's vessels, the *Yarra* leaving Hongkong on the 8th April instead of the *Oceanien*, while the latter will leave Hongkong on the 6th May.

The aversion of Chinamen to European surgical treatment is well-known, and it is accordingly interesting to note that at the Tung Wah Hospital the other day Dr. Chung amputated the left leg of a Chinaman at the thigh. This is the first major operation performed in the hospital according to European methods.

At the Magistracy on 29th March morning Michael J. Fannon, groom, was charged with forcing open a locked box and stealing therefrom 40 American five-dollar gold pieces and 80 silver Mexican dollars, valued at \$480, the property of John J. Benep, horse-trainer at Warren's Circus. He was sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

The North German Lloyd steamer *Bavaria*, Capt. E. Prehn, made the passage from Tung-sha Light to Cape Collinson Light in 52 hours 12 minutes. The *Bavaria* left Shanghai at 10.6 a.m. on the 25th and arrived at Kowloon Wharf at 6 p.m. yesterday, the 27th March. At 2 p.m. yesterday she passed the Austrian man-of-war *Kaiserin Elisabeth*, eastward bound.

In consequence of telegraphic information received from Tientsin Inspector Hanson visited the Windsor Hotel on Tuesday and arrested a Frenchman named Joanny Eugene de Beauchamp, employed by a French firm in Tientsin. The information received by the police said he had absconded with \$5,000 of the firm's money. At the Magistracy he asked to be returned to Tientsin as soon as possible, saying that he could settle the affair if sent back, and the French Consul agreeing, the man was subsequently put on board the *Ernest Simons* for the north.

On Tuesday night the garrison of Stonecutters and Belchers were mobilised. The attacking force were represented by the *Solent* and the *Miner*, representing cruisers, four launches, representing torpedo boats, and a torpedo boat. The Volunteers, who embarked at Wardley Street Wharf, represented the attacking party. The Hongkong Regiment were stationed on Stonecutters, and surprised the "enemy" during landing operations.

On the 28th March Mr. G. P. Lammert offered for sale by order of the mortgagees the leasehold property situate at Nos. 50, 52, and 54, Lower Lascar Row and registered in the Land Office as sub-section 1 of Section A of Inland Lot No. 44. Mr. Leong Muk Shan was the purchaser, the price being \$20,500. The property is held for the residue of the term of 75 years from the 26th June, 1843, and for the further of 924 years from the expiry of the said term of 75 years at the apportioned Crown Rent of \$28.60.

At a regular meeting of the United Mark Lodge, No. 419, held on the 25th March, Bro. J. Bremner was installed as Worshipful Master of the Lodge by Wor. Bro. L. Mallory, after which the following brethren were invested as office bearers by the W.M.:—Bro. G. W. Crombie, S.W.; Bro. B. Greet, J.W.; Bro. A. Laverder, Chaplain; Bro. J. R. Grimbly, Treas.; Bro. G. W. Watling, M.O.; Bro. J. A. Wheel, P.O.; Bro. T. Carter, J.O.; Bro. H. W. Wolfe, Reg. of Marks; Wor. Bro. W. Baker, Sec.; Bro. F. Stainton, S.D.; Bro. W. H. Woolley, J.D.; Bro. G. Angus, D.C.; Bro. H. Gilmour, Steward; Bro. B. B. Harker, I.G.; and Bro. J. Maxwell Tyler.

At about six o'clock on Saturday morning an Indian constable was returning from duty along the Praya when he saw a Chinaman running, followed by a Portuguese. The latter shouted out "stop him," and the Constable caught hold of the Chinaman and they struggled together. A crowd of Chinamen collected round and attacked the constable, who was got down on the ground and badly mauled. His revolver was seized, and while he was struggling to retain it three of the chambers went off, but fortunately no one was shot. The constable managed to blow his whistle and, assistance coming, five of his assailants were arrested. It seems that there had been a row on board a launch, and the Chinaman was running away in consequence. The five men were brought before Mr. T. Sercombe Smith and charged with assaulting the constable. Two of them were sentenced to six months' imprisonment, and the rest to one month each.

On 23rd March a smoking concert took place in connection with the 2nd Battalion Royal Welch Fusiliers. A programme largely composed of songs was capitally gone through, some of the vocalists being the possessors of voices much above the average. Lance-Corporal Hart (who also sang "Remedies") was encored for a comic song entitled "Mrs. Gottem," and Lieut. Walwyn was recalled for an excellent rendering of "You 'ave to 'ave 'em." Songs were also contributed by Sergeant Palmer ("The sour apple-tree" and "Curiosity"), Sergeant Baisden ("The diver" and "Drinking"), Sergeant Clarke ("The golden dustman" and "One of the family"), Sergeant Howell ("We've all been having a go at it" and a parody on "Wedding bells"), Corporal Hunt, Sergeant Notman ("Ever of thee"). The programme also included a dance by Corporal Richardson, the glee "Comrades in arms," and a farce in which Lance-Sergeant Robertson, Sergeant Palmer, Sergeant Clarke, and Sergeant Notman took part. The band of the regiment was in attendance.

The other week a Chinaman named Chang Cheng, recently employed by the opium-farmer at his place in Morrison Hill Road, was fined \$500, or three months, for having concealed on his person five skins of prepared opium. Mr. J. H. Logan, preventive officer in the employ of the Steamboat Company, discovered the man on board the *Powen* with the opium in his possession on the 2nd inst. On 24th March the man was further charged before Mr. Sercombe Smith with stealing the opium—96 taels. Mr. Ewens appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Hastings for the defence. After some evidence had been given Mr. Hastings said his client was prepared to plead guilty in this matter and had undertaken to give evidence against the other

parties who were implicated. On that understanding Mr. Ewens, for the prosecution, said he would ask his worship to deal as leniently as he could with defendant. Defendant was not really the principal offender in this matter. He was only the agent, and he had undertaken to bring the real offenders to book. His Worship said he would not pass sentence until he saw what followed.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that, in the absence of further rainfall, on and after Saturday, 1st April the supply of water will be turned on in the public mains during the following hours only:—In the city of Victoria below Caine Road from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.; in Seymour Road, south side of Robinson Road, and south side of Upper Richmond Road, from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m.; in Queen's Gardens from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m.; in Peak Road above Queen's Gardens from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.; and in Peak Road below Queen's Gardens from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. The notification is dated 25th March, and "further rainfall" came in the afternoon of that day and during the night, but not to an extent that would be sufficient to modify the above arrangement if it is not followed by a further fall. The Observatory notice gives the rainfall for the twenty-four hours up to 10 a.m. on the 26th as 0.30 inch.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 14th March.—Tsattees and Re-reels.—No business to report, and prices are nominal. Re-reels.—New season have been in good enquiry and about 230 bales of No. 1 Grant are said to have been settled at \$660. Filatures.—Continued to be in very good demand, but owing to the reluctance of dealers to sell and the high prices asked comparatively little has been done. There are rumours abroad of important settlements in new season's silk, but it is difficult to ascertain anything positive about prices. From prices paid for old season's silk we quote: \$9.50 to Wing Wo Lun, Yee Wo Lung and Man Po Sing 9/11, \$9.10 for Miu King Lun 11/13, \$9.00 for Kwong Sun Hang 11/13, \$8.85 for Kwong Lun Fung 11/13, \$8.70 for Shing King Cheong 10/12. Short-reels.—Prices advanced another \$20 per picul and especially the lower grades III A, 11/16, 14/18 and 16/20. New season's silks have been in good demand. Waste.—Quiet.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 31st March.—The market continues firm and there has been a further slight improvement in prices. Quotations for Formosa are \$69.50 to \$70.00. Sales 20 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 31st March.—The market continues to rise. Quotations are:—Shekloong, No. 1, White... \$6.85 to \$6.90 per picul. do. " 2, White... 7.35 to 7.40 " Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 5.28 to 5.80 " do. " 2, Brown... 5.12 to 5.15 " Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.78 to 7.80 " do. " 1, White... 7.15 to 7.20 " Swatow, No. 1, Brown... 4.95 to 5.00 " do. " 2, Brown... 4.88 to 4.92 " Foochow Sugar Candy... 11.65 to 11.70 " Shekloong " 10.10 to 11.15 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Kenmore*, sailed on the 1st March. For New York:—1 case private effects, 1 case lacquerware, 1 case cigars, 4 cases black-woodware, 31 cases cassia, 24 cases human hair, 25 cases fans, 46 cases Chinaware, 94 packages rattanware, 168 bags seeds, 179 cases gallnuts, 31 rolls matting, 300 cases joss sticks, 30 cases cassia buds, 500 bales broken cassia, 63 s'abs tin, 701 cases cannon crackers, 4,976 packages firecrackers, and 5,750 packages merchandise.

Per steamer *Oopack*, sailed on the 4th March. For London:—3,617 bales hemp, 225 bales waste silk, 105 bales canes, 80 rolls matting, 40 cases bristles, 25 cases essential oil, 10 cases preserves, 7 cases sundries, 4 cases gongs, and 3 cases silks. For Hamburg:—37 rolls matting, 20 cases palm leaf fans, and 10 bales paper.

Per steamer *Glenesk*, sailed on the 7th March. For London:—4,060 bales hemp, 150 cases soy, 2 cases feathers, and 1 case Cotton wicks.

Per steamer *Coptic*, sailed on the 21st March. For San Francisco:—15 packages tea and 12 cases silk goods. For Punta Arenas:—2 cases silk goods. For Panama:—3 cases silk goods. For New York:—1 case silk goods. For Whitehall, N.Y.:—100 bales waste silk. For New York:—190 bales raw silk.

OPIMUM.

HONGKONG, 30th March.—Bengal.—During the past week there has been a fair amount of business done, the market closing quiet at the following figures:—New Patna \$85, Old Patna \$84.25, New Benares \$82.25, and Old Benares \$85.

Malwa.—This market has been dull and very few sales have been effected. Latest quotations are:—

New Malwa \$700 with all'ce from 1 to 3 catty. Old (2 yrs.) \$740 " " 1 to 2 1/2 " " (3/4 ") \$770 " " 0 to 2 1/4 " " (5/6 ") \$800 " " 0 to 3 1/4 " " (7/8 ") \$850 no allowance

Persian.—The market has been quiet and rates remain unchanged. Oily close at \$65.00 to \$66.00 and Paper-tied at \$65.00 to \$75.00 according to quality.

10-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna..... nil
Old Patna..... 1,678 chests.
New Benares..... 1 0 "
Old Benares..... 107 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIMUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1899.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mar. 25	835	84	822 1/2	850	700	
Mar. 26	835	840	8	850	700	
Mar. 27	835	840	8 2 1/2	850	700	
Mar. 8	8 5	8.0	8 1/2	85	700	
Mar. 29	835	842 1/2	82 1/2	850	700	
Mar. 31	835	84 1/2	822 1/2	850	700	740/770 800.850

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 30th March.—

Bombay..... 15.00 to 16.25 picul.
Karnache..... " to " "
Bengal (New), Rangoon, } 16.25 to 17.75 picul.
and Dacca..... }
Shanghai and Japanese, ... 20.00 to 21.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo..... 20.00 to 21.00 "
Madras (Best)..... " to " "
Sales: 425 bales Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 31st March.—Owing to the long continued drought the market is firmer. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary..... \$2.57 to 2.70
" Round, good quality..... 2.88 to 2.98
" Long..... 2.29 to 2.31
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ... 3.15 to 3.20
" Garden, " No. 1 ... 3.19 to 3.23
" White..... 3.75 to 3.80
" Fine Cargo..... 3.95 to 3.95

COALS.

HONGKONG, 31st March.—Sales are small and the market dull. Quotations are:—

Canal Off..... \$18.00 to 19.00 ex ship, nominal
Australian..... 10.50 to 11.00 ex ship, "
Miki Lump } 9.00 to 10.00 nominal
and Small }
Maji Lump ... 7.00 to 9.00 ex ship, quiet
Hongay double } 12.00 ex Godown
screened..... }
Hongay Lump ... 8.00 to 8.50 ex ship
Hongay Dust.. 5.50 to —
Briquettes ... 10.50 to —

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 30th March.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—50 bales No. 8 at \$52 to \$71, 1,300 bales No. 10 at \$66.50 to \$85, 500 bales No. 12 at \$78.50 to \$79, 20 bales No. 16 at \$82.50 to \$83, 200 bales No. 20 at \$82 to \$86.25. Grey Shirtings.—500 pieces 10 lbs. Red 5 Men at \$3.35. White Shirtings.—750 pieces Gold Elephant \$3.95, 400 pieces 8 Chop at \$3.65, 150 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6.10, 500 pieces Gold Elephant at \$3.95, 1,000 pieces 6 Chop at \$4.25, 200 pieces Gold Tiger at \$6.10, 500 pieces Gold Elephant at \$3.95. T-Cloths.—375 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. G. Pheasant at \$1.95. Turkey Red.—500 pieces 6 lbs. Clock Chop at \$3.35, 250 pieces 4 1/2 lbs. Kluteman at \$3.05.

EXCHANGE.

THURSDAY, 30th March.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer 1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand 1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 1/11 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight 1/11 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 1/11 1/2

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand 2.46
Credits, at 4 months' sight 2.49 1/2

ON GERMANY.—

On demand 1.99 1/2

ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand 47 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight 48 1/2

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer 146
Bank, on demand 146 1/2

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer 146
Bank, on demand 146 1/2

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight 73
Private, 30 days' sight 74

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand 4 1/2 % pm.

ON MANILA.—

On demand 1 1/2 % pm.

ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand 1 1/2 % pm.

SOVEREIGNS. Bank's Ruying Rate... 10.12
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael... 53.40

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 30th March.—The market has ruled steady with an upward tendency during the week under review and a fair business has been transacted. Settlements passed off satisfactorily on the 29th.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai, which in the early part of the week were obtainable at 266, were transacted towards the end at 267, 268, 269, and 270 per cent. prem., market closing firm at 270.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders continue quiet and neglected at \$62 with sellers and no sales. Unions, Cantons, and the Northern Insurances remain unchanged and without business. Straits have changed hands at \$4 1/2.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs and Chinas continue weak with small sales at quotation.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Mapas have changed hands at \$2.9, and close steady at that rate. Indo-Chinas after sales at \$67, \$67 1/2, and \$68 cash have improved to \$69; on time sales have been effected at \$69 for April, and \$70 for May.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have found small buyers at \$169, \$169 1/2, and \$170 ex div., and close steady at \$170. Luzons unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Punjoms have ruled more or less neglected at quotations with small sales, but close in demand. Charbonnages have changed hands at \$145 and \$150, closing steady at the latter rate. Raubs have advanced to \$61 with sales and Jelebus to \$84. Queen Minas and Great Easterns have ruled quiet with but small sales at 55 cents and \$3.75.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have, after small sales at \$18 and \$19, improved to 326 per cent. prem. with but few if any shares obtainable except at a substantial advance. Kowloon Wharves are enquired for and after small sales at \$84, \$88, and \$87 close firm at \$88. Wanchais unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have found buyers at \$78 1/2. Hotels have ruled rather weaker at \$79, closing with small sales and sellers at \$78. West Points have changed hands at quotation and Humphreys continue on offer with small sales at \$9.

COTTONS.—No business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands are more in favour and an enquiry at \$21 1/2 has not been fully satisfied. Watsons have found buyers at \$13 1/2. Electrics at \$12 and \$11 1/2. Fenwicks at \$34 ex dividend, loss at \$12, Tramways at \$140 and \$142 1/2, and China Providents at \$9.20 and \$9.25.

Closing quotations are as follows —

Banks—			
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	270 p. t. rem. =	\$462½, buyers
China & Japan, prf.	\$25		11s. 10d. nominal
Do. ordinary	\$4		\$1, sales
Do. deferred	\$1		5. 5s.
Natl. Bank of China			
B. Shares	\$8		20½, buyers
Foun. Shares	\$1		20½, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	\$1		11s. 10d. nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10		10, buyers
China Prov. L. & M....	\$10		\$9.25, buyers
China Sugar	\$10		\$170
Cotton Mills—			
Ewo	11s. 100		11s. 78
International	11s. 100		11s. 84
Laou Kung Nio	11s. 100		11s. 85
Soychee	11s. 500		11s. 400
Yahloong	11s. 100		11s. 55
Hongkong	\$100		\$5, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6		4, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	\$25		33, buyers
Green Island Cement...	\$10		\$21½, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50		50
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10		11. 6
Hongkong Electric	\$10		12, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100		142, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50		78
Hongkong Ice	\$25		112, sales
H. & K. Wharf & G....	\$50		\$8, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50		70
H. & W. Dock	\$125		326, sales & buyers
Insurances—			
Canton	\$50		\$142, sellers
China Fire	\$20		\$82, sales & sellers
China Traders'	\$25		62, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50		29½, sales & buyers
North-China	\$25		11s. 14, buyers
Straits	\$20		44, sales & sellers
Union	\$50		230, sales
Yangtze	\$50		120, sellers
Land and Building—			
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$50		\$78½, sales
Humphreys Estate...	\$10		9
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30		21, buyers
West Point Building	\$40		28, sales & sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100		50, sellers
Mining—			
Charbonnages	cs. 500		\$150, buyers
Gr. Estn. & C'donian	\$5		\$3.75
Jebeu	\$5		7½, sellers
Queens Mines Ltd....	25c.		55 cts., sellers
Queens Mines, A....	\$5		16, sellers
Do. B....	\$3		4.75
Funjom	\$5		5, buyers
Do. Preference	\$1		140, sales & b.
Raubs	14s. 10d.		61
New Amoy Dock	\$6½		15, ex div.
Steamship Coys.—			
China and Manila	\$50		77½, sellers
China Mutual Pref.	\$10		9, 15s., buyers
Do. Ordinary	\$10		24, 10s., buyers
Do. Do.	\$5		2, 10s., buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50		57½, sellers
H., Canton and M....	\$15		29, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10		69
Star Ferry	\$7½		\$12.25, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5		55, sellers
Do.	\$2		\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	\$2		\$150, buyers
Do.	\$10		\$10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse...	\$7½		39½
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10		\$13½, sales

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 30th March.—Our freight market remains firm with a good demand for steamer tonnage which cannot be met owing to a scarcity of medium sized steamers.

From Saigon to Hongkong, the rate is firm at 24 to 25 cents per picul; quarantine of nine days is placed on steamers at Saigon arriving from this port (which includes the passage down).

From Bangkok there is a demand for Hongkong, at 2½ cents outside and 27½ cents per picul inside the bar, but for reasons given above no settlements are reported.

Newchwang to Canton a small carrier is wanted at about 30 cents per picul, which has not been met.

Java to Hongkong, mixed cargo dry and/or wet sugar 35 cents per picul is offered.

Cod freights are firm for reed tonnage, Moji to Hongkong \$2.50, to Singapore, \$3.20 to \$3.25 per ton.

Sailing tonnage, a seller might be taken hence to New York for May-June loading.

The British ship, *Simla*, 3,037 tons is reported fixed at home to load Cebu to New York. The British ship *Pegasus*, 2,438 tons, proceeds to Port Townsend under orders from owners.

There are two vessels disengaged in port registering 3,075 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Lada—British bark, 1,291 tons, Bangkok to Rio de Janeiro, settled at home.

Tamarind—Norwegian steamer, 888 tons, Manila to Marseilles (Copro), 35 cents per picul.

Sabine Rickmers—German steamer, 690 tons, Newchwang to Amoy, 28 cents per picul.

Ragnar—Norwegian steamer, 1,220 tons, Moji to Amoy, \$3.60 per ton.

Unity—Norwegian steamer, 429 tons, Hongkong to Shanghai, \$3.20 per ton.

Kong Beng—British steamer, 862 tons, Hoihow to Singapore, passengers, \$7.5 each.

Taichow—British steamer, 862 tons, hence to Singapore, passengers, \$8 each.

Tylos—German steamer, 1,033 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.

Unity—Norwegian steamer, 429 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 3½ cents per picul.

Nanyetsu Maru—Japanese steamer, 833 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.

Ingraban—German steamer, 884 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.

Propontis—British steamer, 1,390 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.

Quarta—German steamer, 1,146 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.

Sishan—British steamer, 497 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 23 cents per picul.

China—German steamer, 1,775 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 23 cents per picul.

Petrarch—German steamer, 1,251 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.

Oslo—Norwegian steamer, 767 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 28 cents per picul.

Prosper—Norwegian steamer, 788 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 2 cents per picul.

Taichow—British steamer, 862 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.

Progress—German steamer, 793 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.

Amigo—German steamer, 822 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 26 cents per picul.

Toyo Maru—Japanese steamer, 1,548 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.

Gloucester City—British steamer, 1,49 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.

Bucephalus—British steamer, 1,192 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 24 cents per picul.

Dr. Hans Jung Kiaer—Norwegian steamer, 691 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$6.00 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Chusan* (str.), *Prometheus* (str.), *Chingwo* (str.), *Formosa* (str.), *Kanagawa Maru* (str.), *Sado Maru* (str.).

For BREMEN.—*Prinz Heinrich* (str.).

For MARSEILLE.—*Yarra* (str.), *Kanagawa Maru* (str.), *Sado Maru* (str.).

For HAYRE AND HAMBURG.—*Babelsberg* (str.), *Serbia* (str.).

For HAYRE AND AMSTERDAM.—*Suevia* (str.), *Nurnburg* (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Gaelic* (str.), *Hongkong Maru* (str.), *Queen Margaret*, *Carmarthenshire* (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of China* (str.).

For VICTORIA, B.C. AND TACOMA.—*Olympia* (str.).

For PORTLAND, O., *Columbia* (str.).

For NEW YORK.—*Liv* (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—*Menmuir* (str.).

For STRAITS AND CALCUTTA.—*Suisang* (str.).

For THURSDAY ISLAND.—*Fulami Maru* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

MAIL.

HONGKONG.

ARRIVALS.

March—

24, *Milke Maru*, Japanese str., from Moji.

25, *Tokio Maru*, Jap. str., from Melbourne.

25, *Kong Beng*, British str., from Saigon.

25, *Olympia*, British str., from Tacoma.

25, *Babelsberg*, German str., from Hamburg.

25, *Cheangohew*, British str., from Straits.

25, *Knivsberg*, German str., from Hoihow.

25, *Namyong*, British str., from Singapore.

25, *Suisang*, British str., from Calcutta.

26, *Bellerophon*, British str., from S'pore.

26, *Fukui Maru*, Jap. str., from Kutchinotzu.

26, *Haitan*, British str., from Coast Ports.

26, *Loongmoon*, German str., from Shanghai.

26, *Myrmidon*, British str., from Liverpool.

26, *Sungkiang*, British str., from Manila.

26, *Szechuen*, British str., from Samarang.

26, *Kashing*, British str., from Tientsin.

27, *Maiguro*, Japanese str., from Kobe.

27, *Wittenberg*, German str., from Moji.

27, *Ariake Maru*, Jap. str., from K'notzu.

27, *Hobenzollern*, Ger. str., from Yokohama.

27, *Choysang*, British str., from Shanghai.

27, *Hyson*, British str., from Singapore.

27, *Oslo*, Norwegian str., from Amoy.

27, *Elsa*, German str., from Bangkok.

27, *Katsuyama Maru*, Jap. str., from Saigon.

27, *Moyune*, British str., from Shanghai.

27, *Suevia*, German str., from Moji.

27, *Bayern*, German str., from Shanghai.

27, *Ernest Simons*, Fr. str., from Marseilles.

27, *Hating*, French str., from Haiphong.

27, *Fushun*, Chinese str., from Shanghai.

27, *Yiksang*, British str., from Manila.

28, *Glenfalloch*, British str., from Straits.

28, *Haimun*, British str., from Tamsui.

28, *Sarpedon*, British str., from Glasgow.

28, *Triumph*, German str., from Pakhoi.

28, *Mich. Jensen*, Ger. str., from Haiphong.

29, *Formosa*, British str., from Tamsui.

29, *Bennington*, Amr. g.-bt., from Manila.

29, *Yedo Maru*, Japanese str., from Saigon.

29, *Esmeralda*, British str., from Manila.

29, *Kiangnan*, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.

29, *Rosetta*, British str., from Yokohama.

29, *Columbia*, Amr. str., from Moji.

29, *Taicheong*, German str., from Hongkong.

29, *Siam*, British str., from Bangkok.

30, *City of Peking*, Amr. str., from S. Francisco.

30, *Clio*, British str., from Samarang.

30, *Mazagon*, British str., from Bombay.

30, *Wongkoi*, British str., from Bangkok.

30, *Loongmoon*, German str., from Canton.

30, *Hoihow*, French str., from Pakhoi.

30, *husan*, British str., from Shanghai.

30, *Phra Nang*, British str., from Bangkok.

March— DEPARTURES.

25, *Caledonien*, French str., for Europe.

25, *Prosper*, Norwegian str., for Saigon.

25, *Hikosan Maru*, Jap. str., for Moji.

25, *Nanyang*, German str., for Swatow.

25, *Glenfarg*, British str., for Shanghai.

25, *Ingraban*, German str., for Saigon.

25, *Pronto*, German str., for Amoy.

25, *Malaya*, British str., for Bangkok.

25, *Amigo*, German str., for Hongkong.

25, *Milke Maru*, Jap. str., for Bombay.

25, *Sabine Rickmers*, British str., for Foochow.

25, *Kwangping*, Chinese str., for P. Arthur.

25, *Athenian*, British str., for Vancouver.

26, *Bygdo*, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.

26, *Riojun Maru*, Japanese str., for Kobe.

26, *Hailoong*, British str., for Swatow.

26, *Hailan*, French str., for Hoihow.

26, *Pashan*, British str., for Swatow.

26, *Cheangohew*, British str., for Amoy.

26, *Prinzess Wilhelm*, Ger. cr., for Kiaochau.

26, *Albert Rickmers*, Ger. ship, for Kiaochau.

27, *Kaiserin Elizabeth*, Austrian cruiser, for Shanghai.

27, *Beccedale*, Amr. bark, for Callao.

27, *Loongmoon*, German str., for Canton.

27, *Tokio Maru*, Japanese str., for Nagasaki.

27, *Chunsang*, British str., for Amoy.

27, *Centurion*, British flagship, for Shanghai.

27, *Kashing*, British str., for Canton.

28, *Ernest Simons*, French str., for Shanghai.

28, *Namyong*, British str., for Amoy.

28, *Fukui Maru*, Jap. str., for Misumi.

28, *Babelsberg*, German str., for Yokohama.

28, *Haitan*, British str., for Swatow.

28, *Knivsberg*, German str., for Hoihow.

28, *Hyson*, British str., for Shanghai.

28, *Myrmidon*, British str., for Shanghai.

28, *Oslo*, Norwegian str., for Saigon.

28, *Nanyetsu Maru*, Japanese str., for Saigon.

28, *Fushun*, Chinese str., for Canton.

28, *Hongkong*, French str., for Hoihow.

29, *Ariake Maru*, Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.

29, *Bayern*, German str., for Europe.

29, *Produce*, Norw. str., for Singapore.

29, *Bellerophon*, British str., for Amoy.

29, *Africa*, Portuguese transport, for Macao.

29, *Belgian King*, British str., for S. Francisco.

29, *Wittenberg*, German str., for Hamburg.

29, *Katsuyama Maru*, Jap. str., for Saigon.

29, *Yik-ang*, British str., for Swatow.

29, *Moyune*, British str., for New York.

29, *Taichow*, British str., for Singapore.

30, *America Maru*, Jap. str., for S. Francisco.

30, *Haimun*, British str., for Amoy.

30, *Glenfalloch*, British str., for Amoy.

30, *Sarpedon*, British str., for Shanghai.

30, *Kong Beng*, British str., for Hoihow.

30, *Petrarch*, German str., for Saigon.

30, *Kweiyang*, British str., for Swatow.

Printed and Published by D. WARENS SMITH, at
29, Wyndham Street, Victoria, Hongkong.